STOURBRIDGE
CHRONICLE

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Carnival Fun

Sun brings out big crowds at town parade

See Page 3

Coming Home

Lenny looks forward to his Rudy Rep role

See Page 23

Tennis Champ

Wimbledon pairs prize for Jordanne

Sport — Page 39

HUGE BOOST FOR TRAINING

A MULTI-MILLION pound grant from the Government to support work at education centres in the borough has been hailed as a 'tremendous boost'.

A total of £8 million will be given to Dudley College to fund its Centre for Advanced Building Technologies and Construction. The centre will provide the final piece in the college's Learning Quarter in the town centre.

Report by Alex Ross

The centre, also known as CABTech, will cost a total of £48m.

Building work should start next year and bosses have targeted the opening for spring 2017.

The college predicts 3,250 people will be trained through teaching and workshops at the centre within the first five years of opening.

Business

The Government will also give £1m to Halesowen College toward a new £3m Advanced Science, Engineering and Technology Skills Centre at Coombs Wood Business Park, Halesowen.

The centre will provide 250 higher-level apprenticeships in information technology, laboratory work, electrical engineering, business and accounts. The courses will be designed to meet the demands of employers.

Dudley Councillor Judy Foster, cabinet member for regeneration, said: "The announcement is a tremendous boost to regeneration plans across the Black Country and we are really excited about what it will mean for us here in Dudley.

"We are delighted that it will bring new investment to our further education infrastructure — improving provision for young people whilst marking out our borough as a great place for investment, making Dudley a place where businesses know they will be able to access the skills they need."

Dudley College Principal Lowell Williams said: "We are thrilled that the Government has recognised the role that Dudley College can play in the regeneration of the Black Country.

"Over the last three years, we have invested heavily in Dudley's town centre. This funding will bring our total investment to £50m."

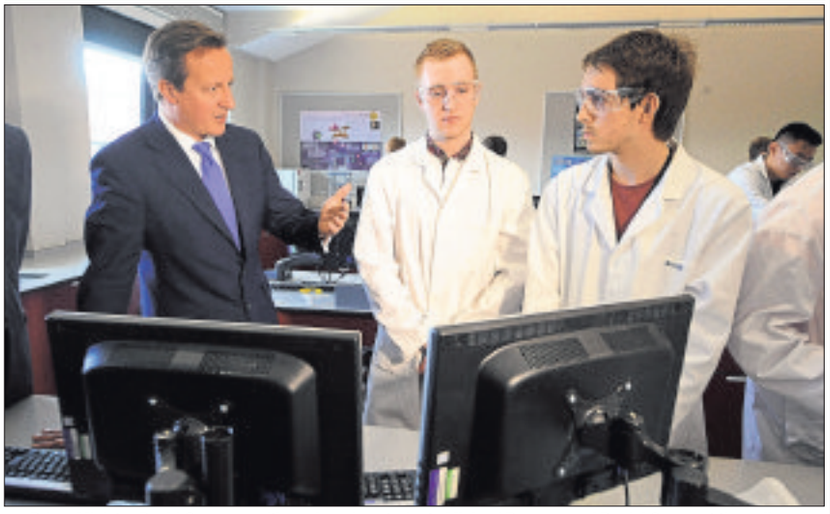
"CABTech will enable us to bring training opportunities in advanced building and construction skills to the region that will support the recovery of the construction industry and its supply chain."

Halesowen College Principal Keith Bate said: "The college is a very strong provider of education for 16 to 19-year-old and we are building on that with higher level programmes."

He added: "We want to offer courses which match what employers in the local area want."

The announcement of the investment came as Prime Minister David Cameron visited Halesowen College this week.

PM says students are key to bright future



Prime Minister David Cameron with engineering students Michael Pearson and Daniel Crowe at the college

PRIME Minister David Cameron announced a huge investment in the Black Country whilst visiting Halesowen College on Monday.

He vowed it would mark the dawn of a new era for the Black Country while touring Halesowen College, which is set to benefit from the cash boost.

A total of £3 million will be invested in a 1,300 sq m Advanced Science, Engineering and Technology Skills Centre at Coombs Wood Business Park, part of Halesowen College.

This is intended to provide 250 higher level apprenticeships in IT, laboratory technician, electrical engineering and business/accounts skills to meet the needs of employers.

The new centre will work with a range of leading companies including Exova, Eurofins Scientific and Halesowen-based Sterling Power Group who will provide the practical training facilities.

Growth

During the visit Mr Cameron said: "We are seeing re-industrialisation in Great Britain. I will never forget visiting the Jaguar Land Rover engine plant in Wolverhampton but this is also a statement that we are going to have small and medium enterprises in the whole supply chain, manufacturing components and parts."

Mr Cameron met with students and explained that young people were a 'key part' of the Growth Deals.

"Halesowen College is getting £3m as part of the local growth deal and that will mean more apprentices," he said. "Young people are a key part of local growth deals.

"I don't want an economy where London is booming and the rest of the country is behind. This is the end of Whitehall Knows Best and young people should be a part of it," he added.

Speeding motorists clocked in crackdown

DOZENS of drivers will be warned after being found speeding at up to double the legal limit on roads near to a school.

Campaigners have formed their own community speed watch group after growing concerns of accidents, including one last weekend.

Police have joined together to help with the first event in a series of speed clampdowns in Wordsley.

Concerns

Residents and parents have voiced concerns over motorists speeding past Ashwood Park Primary School.

The new speed watch group is working alongside police community support officers during monthly monitoring sessions.

More than 40 drivers were found to be speeding by volunteers and police using speed guns on Rangeways Road, Lawnswood Road, Balmoral Road, Bells Lane and New Road.

During the checks volunteers were shocked to find one of the drivers had clocked 47 mph in a 30 mph zone near the school, off Balmoral Road.

The statistics are going to be presented to Dudley Council bosses to highlight the problem and press for action.

New plots for gardeners

MAYOR of Dudley Councillor Margaret Aston is opening new allotments in Netherton today after a community group raised £25,000 to convert the site of a disused garage.

Netherton's Darby End Tenants and Residents Association saw the opportunity to convert land in Darby End Road into allotments.

The site had been overgrown for over 30 years.

The renovation has cost £25,000, paid for by cash raised by the association.

Hospital in probe over A&E targets

HOSPITAL bosses in Dudley have insisted there is no issue with patient safety after it emerged that the trust that runs Russells Hall Hospital would be investigated over A&E target times.

NHS watchdog Monitor has announced it will investigate the Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust for 'consistently failing' A&E targets and the 'deterioration' of its finances.

The organisation says that the trust has not met the national target of seeing 95 per cent of patients within four hours at A&E in four of the last five financial quarters.

Dudley Group chief executive Paula Clark said that the trust had met its A&E waiting time targets in the past three weeks.

She added: "We share their concerns around our deteriorating financial performance and the difficulties we have faced to meet the national accident and emergency target.

"However, we would like to reassure patients that Monitor's concerns are around performance targets and financial position — they are not about patient safety."

Dudley North MP Ian Austin said: "The Government needs to get a grip and give hospitals the resources they need."

Motorcyclist badly injured

A MOTORCYCLIST was taken to hospital with serious injuries after a collision involving a car in Wordsley.

The man, believed to be aged in his 20s, suffered head, pelvis and leg injuries and was taken to the major trauma centre at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Birmingham

Emergency services were called to New Street at 7.20pm on Saturday.

The driver of the car involved in the accident escaped injury.

website www.wombourne-windows.co.uk

Wombourne 1st Windows

For more information see page 10

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STOURBRIDGE CHRONICLE
mna media
51-53, Queen Street
Wolverhampton
Open Monday to Friday 9am-1pm and 2pm-5pm
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Three schools marked for expansion

THREE schools could be expanded to admit almost 400 extra pupils as a governing education authority struggles against a growing demand for spaces.

Dudley Council has already created an additional 145 reception class spaces at nine of its schools ahead of the beginning of academic year in September.

But the council has now unveiled further proposals for 210 extra places at Sledmere Primary School in Dudley, 105 for Gig Mill Primary in Stourbridge and 70 for Kate's Hill Primary School for September 2015.

Surge

Council officers are also considering providing extra spaces at Hob Green Primary School in Stourbridge, Howley Grange Primary School in Halesowen and Netherton Primary School for next year. The plans come as officers predict a surge in demand for primary school places over the next three years.

According to forecasts, they are predicting the council will have to provide an additional 1,000 spaces.

The proposal for additional spaces at the three schools will be decided by Councillor Tim Crumpton, cabinet member for children's services. He said: "We have got a few areas in the borough where birth rate has been increasing which means we now have to consider providing more spaces at local schools for children coming through.

"It's not a major problem, there are other areas in the country which are under more pressure."

Desperate thief used car as a battering ram

STEALING a car park pay-and-display machine proved an ordeal for bungling thief Wesley Bristow.

The 25-year-old from Oldswinford and another man struck at the Asda supermarket in Pearson Street, Brierley Hill, around 5.45am on February 23. The whole episode was recorded by CCTV cameras.

Wolverhampton Crown Court heard that those watching the film saw the culprits – both wearing hoods in a bid to hide their identity – batter the machine out of the ground but they cannot completely uproot the device because it is tethered by an underground cable. They revert to Plan B.

The accomplice struggles to get the machine upright and holds it in position while Bristow leaps behind the wheel to turn the Peugeot car into a battering ram. He smashes into the ticket dispenser, tearing it from its base but also ripping bodywork from the car.

Finally they manage to force it into the car and Bristow accelerates away with sparks flying from underneath the car, scraping the ground due to the weight. A mile away father-of-four Bristow lost control and crashed into a wall in Bull Street. Prosecutor Mr Kevin Jones said: "The machine that contained up to £1,000 was recovered."

More than £5,000 damage was caused to the car park.

Mr Devon Small, defending, said: "The car he was driving belonged to one of the two men who had threatened violence if he did not steal the ticket machine to repay a drug debt he owed to them."

Bristow, of Church Road, who had several previous convictions, admitted theft, criminal damage and dangerous driving along with the breach of a suspended sentence given for drug dealing. He was jailed two years.

Plea for an extension over election

THE Home Office is being urged to extend a 35 working-day limit on the time before an election can be held to replace West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner Bob Jones.

Mr Jones died suddenly last week aged 59 and is the first of the new wave of police commissioners to pass away while in office.

His death has triggered a rule that a by-election must take place within 35 days.

The Home Office says this should be interpreted as 35 working days.

Members of the West Midlands Police and Crime Panel are pleading for more time, saying it will be 'impossible' for parties to find candidates and for authorities to organise the election in such a short space of time.

They are also concerned about the election being during the summer school holidays, when many voters might be away on family holiday.

In the meantime, a meeting of the panel will take place on Monday to appoint an interim commissioner, expected to be Yvonne Mosquito, currently the Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner.

Joyce's joy at garden oasis

Joyce Williams is opening her garden in Prestwood as part of the National Garden Scheme

COMPLETE with a Japanese area and its own mini woodland walk, Joyce Williams' garden is a full time labour of love.

Now the Stourbridge grandmother is preparing to throw open her beloved oasis to members of the public as part of a national initiative which raises money for charity.

She will be opening up the garden to the public on July 19 and 20 as part of the National Garden Scheme. Her garden features different 'rooms' which themes such as Japanese and woodland walk.

Mrs Williams, from Prestwood, said: "When the kids grew up and left home I wanted to find something to do, I had all of this space so I decided to have a go at planting. Then it escalated."

Mrs Williams' garden, at Westacre, Wolverhampton Road, will be open between 11am and 4pm on both days. Car parking is available, with coffee, tea, homemade cakes and a plant sale. Entry is £4 and all money raised goes to charity. For more information see the www.ngs.org.uk website.

Body of pensioner was found in garage

THE body of murdered pensioner Cynthia Beamond was found in the garage at her home in Howley Grange, Halesowen, an inquest has heard.

The 80-year-old's body was discovered on June 29, two days after she was reported missing. A post-mortem concluded voluntary charity worker Mrs Beamond, of Juliet Road, died from head injuries. Two people have appeared in court charged with her murder.

Coroner's investigator Bonita Poole said the widow was reported missing by her family after they could not get hold of her on the phone

The inquest at Smethwick Council House was adjourned for police to continue their investigations.

Leo Barnes, 32, of Runcorn Road, Balsall Heath, and Chantelle Moran-Stokes, 24, from the same address in Birmingham, appeared before Dudley Magistrates Court on Thursday. Barnes is also accused of a second murder at an address in London. Moran-Stokes also appeared at Wolverhampton Crown Court on Friday, although Barnes did not. Judge John Warner adjourned the case for plea and case management hearing on October 10.

Dog show at beauty spot

PREPARATIONS are under way for the annual dog show at a Sedgley beauty spot.

The show is being held at Baggeridge Country Park on Saturday.

There is the chance for people to enter theirpets into dog obedience sessions during the day.

There are lots of classes with rosettes awarded for first, second and third places and a prize for each class winner. Entry is £2 per class and there is also a dog's obstacle course. It is being organised in aid of Hearing Dogs for Deaf People.

Strawberry party

TOMORROW a women's gym will be holding a strawberry tea party in aid of Breast Cancer Care.

Refreshments will be available for a donation at Friday's event at Energie Fitness for Women Dudley from 10.15am to 1.30pm at its base in Old Park Road.

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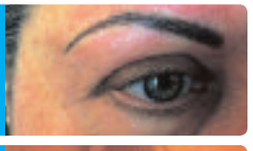

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Voluntary work place pledge is extended

A CAMPAIGN to increase the number of volunteering opportunities for young people is to continue for the rest of the year.

Dudley Council for Voluntary Service (DCVS) and Dudley Council ran a month-long campaign, called Youth Pledge 100, during June. which was also Volunteers Month. The aim was to persuade organisations to commit to providing volunteering opportunities.

The two organisations launched the campaign as a response to the low number of volunteering opportunities that exist locally for 15 to 25-year olds.

In June eight organisations pledged to provide a volunteering placement. Now organisers hope that up to 100 organisations will be encouraged to make the pledge.

Eileen Fielding, development officer at Dudley CVS, said: "There is a desperate need in the region for opportunities for young people to try out and learn new skills."

Mayor of Dudley Councillor Margaret Aston, the council's volunteering champion, added: "We're grateful to the organisations that have signed up to the pledge and we are hoping that many more do so."

MP is given a brewery tour

SOUTH Staffordshire MP Gavin Williamson visited a rural brewery to hear about its plans for growth.

Enville Brewery, which recently celebrated its 21st birthday, is investing in a new fermenting vessel with a capacity of 3,500 litres.

It will also launch a bottled version of its famed Enville Ale in September after a trial run sold out. The brewery sells its beer to 150 outlets.

"The Enville Ale was recently stocked by the House of Commons Bar and I know was enjoyed tremendously," said Mr Williamson.

£1m to stop floods

WORK to prevent flooding affecting homes near a brook has got under way. Dudley Council is using a grant of £1.4 million to tackle flooding on Mousesweet Brook near Woodland Avenue, Cradley. Initial work includes surveys with culvert work to start next May.

Glimpse of park's proposed visitor centre

An artist's impression of the £2.5m visitor centre

THIS artist's impression gives a glimpse to what will greet thousands of visitors arriving for the day at picturesque parkland that is bidding to become a major tourist attraction.

Proposals for a new £2.5 million visitor centre to be built in the grounds of Hagley Hall, near Stourbridge, have been revealed.

Lord Cobham, who owns the hall and surrounding Hagley Park, hopes to reopen the park which had been closed for more than three decades. He aims to use income from up to 100,000 visitors a year to pay vast costs associated which maintaining the 18th century hall and its 300-acre park including the landmark Wychbury Obelisk.

The centre would be built on fields off the A456, opposite the Badgers Sett pub, under proposals with a new link roadway being constructed off the dual carriageway.

It will incorporate education and history exhibitions showcasing Hagley Hall and park through the ages and include study areas for visiting school children.

There will also be a restaurant, gift shop and outdoor seating area for visitors to gaze over the rolling hills of the parkland.

Accommodation for a ranger is also part of the plans alongside a children's play area. There are also outline plans to create a car park for up to 180 vehicles including coaches.

Lord Cobham said he hoped the visitor numbers could put the venue on par with the Black Country Living Museum and Severn Valley Railways as a major West Midlands attraction. "It would be a huge attraction for this part of the world," he said. "It's very important to bring back the 18th century park for the public."

The plans will be discussed by Bromsgrove District Council.

Village housing scheme starts despite opposition

WORK has begun on a controversial development of 175 homes in Hagley, despite thousands campaigning against it.

Developer Cala Homes has started constructing the first of the properties on land off Kidderminster Road.

The developer is starting work to revamp the A456 Kidderminster Road roundabout and junction of Kidderminster Road and Worcester Road as well as installing crossings. This part of the scheme is expected to take 26 weeks.

The housing project has been criticised by residents concerned it will worsen traffic problems and put pressure on village facilities. A 4,000 signature petition opposed the plans.

Outline planning permission for the development was approved by Bromsgrove District Council last year despite objections from Hagley Parish Council, before district councillors approved the detailed proposals in September.

The Wychbury Fields, development will feature two, three, four and five bedroom homes. Cala Homes says the scheme has been designed around a 'village green' concept.

Robert Monkman, sales and marketing director for Cala Homes Midlands, said: "Hagley is a highly aspirational location. This is a flagship development for Cala and we have designed a high quality scheme, which is traditional in design and sensitive to its village location"

The developer will contribute £800,000 towards education facilities and around £85,000 towards improvements at Hagley Surgery to help both cope with increasing numbers, whilst £1 million is being spent on work on the Kidderminster Road roundabout.

Show success means more staff needed

EXTRA curators are being recruited to four town halls by council bosses to help cope with an increase in bookings for shows.

Dudley Council is looking to take on the additional staff to work at its venues in the borough. An average of around 180,000 visitors attend shows at Stourbridge Town Hall, Dudley Town Hall, Brierley Hill Civic Hall and the Cornbow in Halesowen each year.

The council says it needs to take on additional three casual curators, taking the total to six. Bosses say during busy periods they do not have enough staff on site. Bookings are taken seven days a week and have steadily increased during the last six years.

There are more than 15 professional shows between now and the end of the year with comedians John Bishop and Jasper Carrott as well as productions by Viva Musica Choir and Ballet Cymru on the Entertainment Live programme. There are also amateur productions, film screenings, dances and other events.

Sunshine smiles at town's carnival

Street performers Jo Terry, of Stourbridge, and Jane Stephens, of Wednesbury, during Stourbridge Carnival

ALL the fun of the carnival from music and dance to fairground rides and market stalls filled Stourbridge town centre as thousands of people basked in the sunshine.

The event, in its 27th year, attracted one of its biggest crowds with High Street and Market Street full of families enjoying the entertainment.

A colourful parade with a World Cup theme made its way through the town, accompanied by a marching band and stilt walkers.

Britain's Got Talent salsa granny Paddy Jones was the guest of honour to help judge the carnival princess competition. Prizes and certificates were handed out to the walking groups with top trophy going to the Fantasy Dance academy for their football-themed costumes. The runner up award went to the Stourbridge Fairtrade group.

As well as the host of charity and food stalls the High Street, Stourbridge Carnival was this year linked with the Black Country Festival, a month-long celebration in honour of Black Country Day on July 14.

Organiser David Harcourt was 'absolutely' delighted with the huge turnout.

"We had thousands and thousands of people. When I looked up the High Street, there was just a sea of people," he said.

"We had more stalls in the High Street than we've ever had before. I am absolutely delighted ."

NEWS in brief

Music festival is taking over village

MUSIC performers are to take the stage in pubs, cafes, restaurants and a church as part of a village's first ever summer music festival.

Kinver Music 2014 will take place on Saturday from noon. Venues offering free music include The Vine, The Cross, The White Harte, The Plough and Harrow and The Royal Exchange pubs.

Headlining the event is Stourbridge-based blues artist Ian Parker at Dunsley Hall Hotel at 6pm.

Police blitz on graffiti vandals

POLICE have been patrolling subways following complaints about graffiti in Stourbridge

Police Sergeant Andy Pugh said officers have been tackling vanalism problems in the town centre and in surrounding areas.

They have been talking to young people at schools and colleges as well as visiting shops to check they are all following the regulations over selling spray can paints. They will also be speaking to offenders.

Talk on the area's lost mansions

LOST Mansions of the Black Country will be the subject of a history talk on Tuesday by Ian Bott.

The Wyre Forest Historical Research Group meeting, open to visitors, is at the Corn Exchange at Kidderminster Town Hall at 2pm. There is a small entry fee which includes refreshments. For details call 01562 746370 or email the group's secretary at wfhrg@hotmail.co.uk

Volunteers needed at estate litter pick

RESIDENTS are being asked to take part in a litter pick around a Brierley Hill housing estate on Saturday, July 26.

The event has been organised by Corbyns Bromley Tenants and Residents Association. It will last for three hours from 11am with volunteers asked to meet at Sally's Shop, Tiled House Lane.

Seven home plan

PLANS for seven homes on land off Cochrane Road, Brierley Hill, have been lodged with Dudley Council planners. Jay Allied Assets has submitted proposals for four semi-detached and three terraced houses.

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THE BEST OF PETER RHODES

WE are losing the battle to preserve "against." These days, people protest a decision and appeal a conviction. The next step? A radio reporter eliminated "about" as he told us that someone was "worrying the outcome." Sensible English is vanishing. I worry it. I really do.

□□□□□□□□

HERE'S the sort of thing that makes people angry with big corporations. A couple of days ago our troubled landline packed up yet again. The phone was dead but the broadband was working perfectly. So I went online to the BT page which invites us to: "manage your BT line problems. Troubleshoot issues, report and track faults." I entered the phone number into the appropriate box. Back came the message: "Please note that faults on this line cannot be reported via BT.com - please call 0800 800 151." In other words, there's a fault on your phone, so please give us a phone call.

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THREE alien species are being targeted for extermination by Defra, the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs. I can see them bumping off the Indian house crow and the quagga mussel without too many problems. But what reckless, fate-tempting fool will raise his shotgun against the third species, the sacred ibis? The clue is in the name. There is something about shooting an Egyptian sacred ibis that combines those twin follies of killing albatrosses and desecrating a Pharaoh's tomb. How long before those who slaughter the sacred ibis are discovered to be suffering from a nasty bout of ill-fortune, a term which will cover anything from sudden death to an ingrown toenail? I bet the headline writers are already on the case: "Curse of the Sacred Ibis." Don't you just love the silly season?

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FAREWELL, the old shoe shop, which has graced our main street for as long as I can remember. It is being replaced by an ice-cream parlour. In this internet age, the products that do best in the high street are the ones that cannot be ordered on line. Shoes can be successfully delivered by courier, ice cream less so.

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THE future is robotics. If you believe everything you hear, the Government's Technology Strategy Board is going to drive the UK into the forefront of the global robotic market with a dozen new proving grounds for robots, drones and driverless cars. The aim is to release humans from dirty, dangerous or repetitive tasks. So far, so good. But anyone over 60 will recall the glittering promise of something called automation. Back in the 1950s, automation was going to release us from drudgery. As one old timer told me lyrically many years ago: "The idea was that we'd only have to work a couple of hours a day and we'd spend the rest of our time writing poetry and making mandolins." It has not happened. Far from setting mankind free, the new technology, based on computers, has shackled millions more people to the grindstone. In 1952 about 23 million British people were employed. Today that figure is approaching 32 million. What are the odds on robotics making life easier, giving us more time to raise the kids, draft the occasional sonnet and make a mandolin? Be very sceptical. The lesson of history is that the more labour-saving devices we invent, the harder we must labour.

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SOUTH Korea's World Cup squad were pelted with toffees after arriving home empty-handed from the World Cup. Over there, hurling high-calorie, sugar-filled treats at someone is regarded as a great insult. Over here, it's a friendly greeting. More Quality Street, gran?

□□□□□□□□

WONGA is to pay £2.6 million in compensation to thousands of people to whom it sent fake letters from bogus law firms. In the meantime, Wonga has invoked the H-word. In a statement it says: "Wonga's focus is on compensating the customers affected by the historic debt collection letters." Historic? The word, as used these days, means "Nothing to do with me, squire. It was all a long time ago." But Wonga's wicked letters were sent out between 2008 and 2010. Hardly the Middle Ages, was it?

Don't miss Peter Rhodes every Monday to Friday in your Express & Star

Ex-boyfriend in suicide threat kidnap

A SUICIDAL ex-boyfriend who dragged his former partner to a park and threatened to hang himself before her eyes has been jailed.

Paul Attwell breached bail conditions to visit his ex-girlfriend's house, Wolverhampton Crown Court heard. The 28-year-old forced entry to the flat before dragging her down 12 flights of stairs and to a park five minutes' walk from her flat. There, he tried to hang himself with a rope, said Mr Rob Edwards, prosecuting.

Attwell, of The Broadway, Dudley, admitted one count of kidnap and was sentenced to three years and nine months in jail for what Judge John Wait described it as a 'terrifying' attack on February 17.

At around 2am the victim's buzzer rang on her flat but she ignored it, assuming it to be Attwell. "At 2.10am he pleaded with her to let him come in but she told him to go away," said Mr Edwards. "Her concerns were such that she began to make a call to the police at 2.22am."

He forced entry to her flat and took her mobile phone, throwing it down a rubbish chute. He then grabbed her hair, tearing out clumps of it. At the park father-of-five Attwell made a loop with a rope he had with him and told the victim he was intending to commit suicide. She prevented him from doing so.

Mr Stephen Hamblett, for Attwell, said his client had been affected by drink and drugs since the age of 14. He was given a five-year restraining order to keep away from the victim, who was not named.

Campaign launched to stop waste plant

RESIDENTS vowed they will fight plans for a waste plant site in Brierley Hill as a campaign was stepped up at a public meeting to get a permit proposal thrown out.

Clean Power has applied for an environmental permit to operate the controversial recycling plant on the site off Moor Street.

by Katy-Rose Meaney

At Brierley Hill and Brockmoor and Pensnett community forum last week residents spoke of their opposition. They are worried it would be too close to homes and are fear it would emit a stench.

Upset

The forum also saw members from Say No To The Waste Site (SNOW) launch their awareness campaign called 20 Days To Fight The Permit.

Brierley Hill ward councillor Rachel Harris, chair of SNOW said: "Local people are really upset by this. People do not want this waste plant near their homes. The site is surrounded by houses."

Residents Bridget Clark, 43 and John Bristow, 61, from Sion Close, live two minutes' walk from the site. Mr Clark said: "We need to be very vocal about our objections."

The application for the permit comes after planning permission was rejected by Dudley Council last year. An appeal was lodged but then dropped within weeks of a planning inquiry being held.

An application has now been submitted to the Environment Agency for permission operate the plant. If granted, the company will still need a planning approval from Dudley Council to build the plant.

Campaigners will be collecting letters and signatures for a petition opposing the plan in a bid to stop the permit going ahead over their fears over smells and traffic congestion.

The Environment Agency extended its public consultation on the permit application to July 20.

Spokesman Jessica Campbell said: "We extended the deadline for comment and also wrote to over 700 households and businesses in the local area."

The site would process up to 195,000 tonnes of waste a year.

Clean Power has previously said the plans are 'entirely appropriate for the site' and will not emit an odour.

New 4x4 ambulances

MORE than a dozen new 4x4 ambulances are to be introduced in the West Midlands under a £2.2million investment from the region's ambulance service.

The 16 Mercedes vehicles will mean paramedics will be able to reach patients in difficult weather and muddy off-road conditions.

The fleet is being brought in by West Midlands Ambulance Service, which already has more than 300 ambulances and 200 rapid response vehicles.

It is hoped each hub, including Willenhall, West Bromwich and Dudley, will get its own 4x4 vehicle.

Tennis outfit smashes estimate

The dress from the iconic 1970s poster attracted a flurry of bids and surpassed the estimate

IT'S the white tennis dress from the iconic poster which was on the bedroom walls of teenage boys around the globe.

Stourbridge model Fiona Walker is the cheeky tennis player hitching up her skirt.

Now the handmade outfit form the Tennis Girl poster from the 1970s has sold for £15,500 at auction.

Bids flooded in for the piece of 1970s history at Fieldings Auctioneers in Stourbridge, including one bidder as far away as New Zealand.

The lot, which also included two posters and a tennis racquet, exceeded expectations after experts thought it could fetch up to £2,000, on Saturday — the day of the ladies Wimbledon final.

Bidders batted the price back and forth in person and over the phone and the internet as they vied to secure the dress for their own. It smashed its estimates by more than seven fold with bidders outdoing one another until the hammer fell for an anonymous buyer on the phone.

Peppa Pig is guest at Beacon's fundraiser

A CHARITY based in Sedgley is inviting people from across the region to its summer fair, being held to raise vital funds for people who are visually impaired.

The Beacon centre on Wolverhampton Road will host its Summer Extravaganza on Saturday, when the charity will offer entertainment for the whole family. There face painting and the chance to meet Peppa Pig, and for the rest of the family there will be a variety of stalls,tombola and raffle.

Several local companies will showcase their goods, with stalls selling homemade cakes and pastries, crafts and books.

Kelly Vickers, fundraising and events officer at Beacon, said: "Our summer extravaganza is set to be a really fun day out for all the family. They'll be plenty to see and do including a very special visit from Peppa Pig herself.

"The event starts at 11am and admission is £2 for adults and free for under 14s. All funds raised will go towards supporting local people with sight loss live fuller and more independent lives."

Beacon is also appealing for volunteers to help at the event. Contact 01902 880 111 to find out more.

Challenge to young readers

AN annual summer reading challenge will launch on Saturday and Dudley Council has organised events to mark the start of the challenge in borough libraries.

Children aged four to 11 have until September 14 to read six books. This year's challenge has mythology theme.

Poet Chris White will be at Stourbridge Library on launch day at 11am, there will be an illustration workshop with Laura Howell at Long Lane library from 10.30am and myths treasure hunt at Dudley Library from 2.30pm.

Table top sale

RESIDENTS will be able to pick up a bargain this weekend when a village community centre hosts a table top sale.

The event will be held at Stourton Village Hall, in Bridgnorth Road, on Saturday from 9.30am to 12.30pm.

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Massive financial boost for museum

A MULTI-MILLION pound arts investment has been welcomed by Black Country attraction bosses as a huge boost for the area.

The cash has been awarded to seven attractions and organisations in the Black Country by the Arts Council for the next three years.

The Black Country Living Museum in Dudley will receive £2,658,000 and it is the first year the venue has secured such funding.

Training

It is expected to be used to improve exhibitions as well as support workforce training, provide new volunteering opportunities and support apprenticeships.

Andrew Lovett, director and chief executive of the museum, said: "I look forward to working closely with the Arts Council to maximise its benefit, not just over the three-year period, but stretching well beyond that."

Meanwhile, £430,490 is heading to West Bromwich-based Black Country Touring, up from £429,083, to develop its work with local communities and Sandwell-based Multistory is to get £421,054, up from £422,435.

Heroin killed man, aged 42

A MAN found at dead at home by his mother had overdosed on heroin, an inquest heard.

Simon Middleton was found at his home in Tansey Green Road, Pensnett, on November 30 last year.

The 42-year-old had last been seen alive the day before by his mother, an inquest at Smethwick Council House heard.

A significant amount of morphine was found in his blood, likely from using heroin. Black Country coroner Robin Balmain concluded that he had died as a result of illegal drug use.

Car and bus collide

A MOTORIST suffered minor injuries when a bus and car were in a crash in Dudley last week, causing long queues on Birmingham New Road and Priory Road. The incident happened at the junction of the two roads at 8.30am on July 2. A woman was treated by paramedics.

Heroin was being smuggled in suitcases like the package pictured above

Anwar Bashir and Tahir Mahmood waiting to meet 'couriers' at Birmingham Airport

Prison for mastermind of heroin smuggling operation

Report by Adam Grinsell

HIS drug mules boarded flights bound for Europe concealing more than £1 million of heroin in their suitcases and specially-designed body suits.

Corrupt security officials at Pakistani airports were used to get the drugs out of the country, via connecting flights so Tahir Mahmood's couriers could make their way to Europe.

They targeted Dusseldorf airport, which supposedly had weaker security checks, and Birmingham airport as destinations for the class A drugs, where the couriers would be met by Mahmood himself.

But despite his best laid plans, all but one of the mules were intercepted with their stash, and thanks to surveillance by the National Crime Agency and the Spanish authorities – which included a bug in his home and car – Mahmood was himself caught.

Links

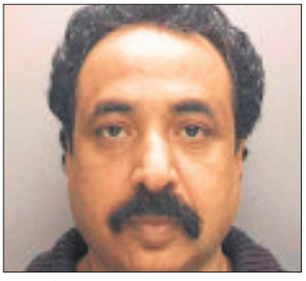
The self-employed delivery driver and father-of-two from Stourbridge has now been jailed for leading the criminal enterprise, and will serve 16 years in prison.

The details of his criminal enterprise were laid out during his sentence hearing at Birmingham Crown Court last week. Mr Tim Hannam, prosecuting Mahmood, said he had close links with the source of the drug in Pakistan, and was involved in almost every step of its importation into Europe.

He had two colleagues in Spain who he would use to help recruit mules and arrange for their passage across the globe. Sometimes hidden in cases, the drugs would then leave Pakistan with the couriers. In one instant a mule was due to hide the drugs in specially-created shoes but they did not fit, so he had to stash the drugs in his case.

Mr Hannam said: "Each importation of heroin began in Pakistan with officials at either Karachi or Lahore airports being corrupted in order to allow the drugs to bypass the security procedures in place. From there, the courier and the drugs travelled via various interconnecting flights to Europe. The route was often Islamabad to Doha, Doha to Madrid and Madrid to Dusseldorf.

Some of the heroin found inside one of the vests used by a smuggler



Ring leader – Tahir Mahmood

A body suit used by a mule to get heroin into Birmingham airport

Right-hand man – Anwar Bashir

"Dusseldorf was considered to be a soft touch customs-wise by those involved. Sometimes however, things went wrong, and the courier missed his connecting flight and parted company with his luggage. That, on occasion, led to discovery and arrest."

Mahmood or his 'right-hand man' Anwar Bashir, sometimes together, would go to the airports to wait for their couriers. If they were to land in Dusseldorf, they would first fly to Amsterdam before doing another short trip into Germany, to avoid suspicion.

More often than not the couriers were caught. Five mules havebeen prosecuted separately in different countries, and received sentences from five to 12 years.

In October 2011 one mule was caught in Madrid after he reported he had lost his luggage which, when recovered, was found to contain more than 12 kilos of heroin. At the time the Spanish authorities were listening in to the mobile telephone conversations of some of those involved, which included conversations with and about Mahmood.

Eight days later a second mule managed to get a quantity of the drug, believed to be 10 kilos, through security at Dusseldorf. On December 12, 2011, the same man was arrested at Islamabad airport with the same quantity on him. A third courier was arrested passing through Vienna airport on January 12, 2012.

In the final two incidents, the mules came into Birmingham Airport to be met by 53-year-old Mahmood. On January 21 2012, the first flew in wearing a body suit stuffed with 87 packages of just under four kilos of heroin of up to 71 per cent purity. After meeting Mahmood and Bashir, he got into a taxi which was stopped by police.

This was the last offence involving Bashir but later in 2012 recording devices were hidden in Mahmood's home and car. The conversations recorded describe his continued involvement in arrangements to smuggle drugs into this country.

In the final incident on March 21, 2013, a final mule flew to meet Mahmood at Birmingham airport where a drugs dog took an interest in his case on the carousel. It contained 8.3 kilos of heroin.

A note on him listed an address in Lye linked to Mahmood from documents seized from his home in Ridge Grove, Stourbridge.

As well as his jail term, Mahmood was also told he will now face a hearing later in the year to see how much money he will have to pay back.

Bashir, 43, from Park Lane, Bradford, was jailed for 15 years.

NEWS in brief

Picnic party fun for children at zoo

HUNDREDS of youngsters flocked to Dudley Zoo for the attraction's annual picnic party celebrations.

The two-day event saw under-fives from across the region head for the castle courtyard for storytelling, magic shows and animal encounters.

"There was a real party atmosphere and everyone had a great time, it was wonderful to see the courtyard packed with so many under-fives," said zoo spokeswoman Jill Hitchman.

Flower festival in honour of organist

THE Methodist Church in High Street, Amblecote, will be celebrating 175 years with a flower festival and concert next weekend.

On Friday, July 18, Halesowen Brass Band will be perform at 7.30pm to start the festivities. Tickets on the door cost £5 including refreshments.

A total of 25 arrangements will feature in the event dedicated to organist Norman Yardley, who died this year. On July 19 viewings are from 11am to 4pm and July 20 noon to 4pm.

Dart Charge to mean more jobs

MORE than 20 skilled jobs are being created in Birmingham ready for Dart Charge, which launches this year to improve journeys at the Dartford Crossing near London.

The Highways Agency is creating 23 jobs at its National Traffic Control Centre in Quinton as a result of the scheme, that also sees Sanef investing over £1 million in a support centre in Leeds.

Cadets launching charity fundraiser

SANDWELL Sea Cadets are planning a charity day to be held at the Sir Robert Peel pub, in Birmingham Road, Blackheath, on Saturday.

Raffles, prize giveaways and games will be taking place from 1pm as part of the fundraising day at the pub, along with face painting and a barbecue.

Brewer celebrates

UPPER Gornal brewers Black Country Ales are creating a special beer to mark Black Country Day, which is celebrated on Monday. The 4.2 per cent strong Chain Ale will be sold in the brewery's pubs.

ADVERTISEMENT

Cloudy2Clear Windows – Service With A Smile!

It's been a crazy few months for Cloudy2Clear Windows. The company which specialises in repairing windows which are steamed up, broken or damaged by replacing the panes – not the frames has grown rapidly as homeowners take advantage of their services.

Managing Director Brian Stanley feels that it's all about service. 'Our product is simple. If your double glazing is misted up we can replace the glass at a fraction of the cost of a new window, in any type of frame, and with a new 5 year guarantee. But it's not just about saving people money, although that obviously helps. Many tradespeople have struggled since last year and I honestly feel that during the good times a minority perhaps didn't focus on customer care as much as they should have done.

We make sure we turn up when we say we will, do the job the customer requires and leave their house as clean as a whistle. I often get comments back from customers on how they really didn't expect that sort of service which, in a way, is very sad for the service industry as a whole.'

Cloudy2Clear service Wolverhampton and the surrounding area and Brian is finding that his approach is a major factor in his success. 'The truth is that it's not just the personal satisfaction that I get from doing a good job but also it makes good business sense. I get a huge amount of business from friends and family of people I've done work for, which just goes to show how much a little bit of effort is appreciated.'

So, if your windows are steamed up, broken or damaged give Brian a call for a free quotation on **0800 61 21 118** and he'll be happy to help!

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IN MY VIEW

with Mark Andrews

RETURNING from a brief spell in Europe, one thing always strikes me is how much better the town centres over there seem to be doing compared to those in this country.

One reason is unquestionably down to the fact that while in this country, local councils seem bent on making people walk as far as possible from their cars to the shops – take for example the ridiculous block paving outside the Express & Star offices in Queen Street, which seems to have at a stroke slashed the number of on-street parking spaces.

But the other thing is that all the shops open in the evening. It has always struck me as quite absurd how nearly all the shops in our town centres open just as everybody arrives at work, and then shut just at the same time as people return. Wouldn't it be a really clever idea for shops to maybe start trading a couple of hours later, say at 11am, and stay open to maybe 9 pm?

❒❒❒❒❒

JUST when you thought there was nothing left that Benefits Street star Deirdre 'White Dee' Kelly could do that would surprise you, she has finally decided to tell the world she has been off benefits for the past three months. Wonders will never cease. She has also fired a broadside at fellow celebrity chav Josie Cunningham.

White Dee says Cunningham, the 23-year-old would-be 'glamour model' who bragged about how she got her £4,800 breast enhancement on the NHS to help with her career, is 'rubbing the taxpayers' nose in it' with her incessant gloating about how much she is taking off the State.

It really comes to something when White Dee thinks you are lowering the tone. Meanwhile, it seems Josie has been offered a book deal, where she will no doubt wax lyrical about how her NHS surgery enabled her to embark on a spell as a £1,000-a-night 'escort' before becoming pregnant by a client.

The book will be in Josie's own words and completely unedited. No doubt in a few years' time, it will be appearing on the National Curriculum. In the mean time I'm sure we can all have a lot of fun colouring it in.

❒❒❒❒❒

ANOTHER testament to the British education system comes in the shape of 19-year-old Zach Jackson, who found even the task of street robbery too much for his tiny brain to take in.

Because he found the work so gruelling, he compiled a helpful little checklist offering himself a bit of advice on how to complete the work successfully.

"Wear black clothes, gloves, warm up before doing it, watch out for CCTV, grab," were his pearls of wisdom for how to make it as an effective mugger. One tip, Zach. You're much less likely to get caught if you don't write down the instructions.

Paddy with her late husband David in Spain

Paddy receives flowers from Wolverley head Bryn Thomas

The great granny in action with dance partner Nico Espinosa

'I'll keep dancing as long as I can'

The octogenarian salsa dancer from Stourbridge isn't ready to quit, she tells **CHARLOTTLE LILLEY**

SHE is the hip-shaking, nimble-footed great-grandmother who stunned the nation as she was thrown around the dancefloor by her younger partner.

Jaws dropped as Paddy Jones twirled around the Britain's Got Talent stage earning herself a standing ovation from all four judges.

As she celebrates her 80th birthday, she has revealed she has no plans to hang up her dancing shoes yet, vowing to carry on as long as she can.

Golden

Paddy, from Stourbridge, won the hearts of the nation when she was put straight through to the final of the ITV1 show after judge Amanda Holden pressed her golden buzzer.

She says: "Since appearing on the show my life has been incredible and now I want to encourage people to go for their dreams and not give up.

"My mother was a singer and she wanted to be professional but my grandpa said no and told her she had to stay in Stourbridge. I think she lived her life through me. I started dancing at the age of two and later started drama and elocution lessons because, living in the Black Country, elocution is important. I was 12 when I did my first professional show at Dudley Hippodrome and 15 when I left school to go into theatre."

Paddy performed in Dudley, Wolverhampton, Birmingham and Blackpool before meeting her late husband, David, at the age of 16. She decided to give up dancing aged 22 to start a family and ran a shop called Paddy's Fabrics in Victoria Passage, Stourbridge.

'I have no intention of giving up just yet,' says 80-year-old Paddy Jones

In 2001 the couple decided to move to Spain but sadly their move was delayed when David was diagnosed with leukaemia. After nine months of treatment at Russells Hall Hospital, he was well enough to go and they enjoyed a few happy months there before the disease returned. He died in March 2003.

Paddy took up Latin-American dance lessons to keep herself busy and rediscovered her love of dance. Her teacher Nico Espinosa, 40 years her junior, recognised her potential and together they started working on routines.

Since then she has been swung, flung, thrown and twirled around stages all over the world and together the couple won the Spanish version of Britain's Got Talent. They finished ninth in the UK version of the competition after Paddy soldiered on despite breaking her ribs just before the final round.

"I never expected the kind of reception I got after appearing on Britain's Got Talent," says Paddy. "It was incredible when Amanda pressed the golden buzzer because we were the first contestants on the show to get one and we didn't know what to think. Nico was besides himself and burst into tears. It was an incredible feeling.

"Amanda has been an absolutely wonderful person and a fantastic mentor. She is so down to earth and is incredibly supportive because she sent flowers to Spain when I cracked my ribs."

Since she started dancing again, Paddy, whose real name is Sarah Patricia Jones, has travelled to North and South America, Europe and Israel.

Peru

She competed in Showmatch, the Argentinian version of Strictly Come Dancing but failed to reach the final. The pair have also performed at the World Salsa Congress in Peru.

In 2010 she was entered into the Guinness World Record books for being the oldest salsa acrobatic dancer.

"I received a medal after appearing in the book which I treasure very much because it is a fantastic achievement," says Paddy. "It has been a very exciting few years and I have really enjoyed myself and since the show ended I have had a lot of job offers.

"Nico and I have been invited to appear on India's Got Talent as guest performers which is exciting. I have also been asked to perform on a cruise ship for three months but that is just too long because I have a home, a garden, a dog and a cat in Spain and I can't abandon them.

"I will carry on dancing for as long as I am able to. I have no intention of giving up just yet."

Last week Paddy marked her 80th birthday by giving a talk about her experiences to students at Wolverley CE Secondary School near Kidderminster.

The mother-of-four and grandmother-of-seven comes back to the West Midlands every four months from her home in Spain to visit friends and family. She says: "I miss Stourbridge, I love coming back and seeing everyone I know. I'm a Stourbridge girl at heart."

WEEK IN POLITICS

with Daniel Wainwright

THE sudden death of West Midlands police and crime commissioner Bob Jones has left a void that many think cannot be filled – even though the law says they must do so in just over a month.

Were the loss of a public servant respected even by his political opponents not enough, the police have now been left dealing with one of the more absurd parts of the statute that created the post in the first place.

The Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act that gave rise to the 2012 elections of PCCs requires a by-election be held 'not more than 35 days after the relevant event'.

Councillor Darren Cooper, who chairs the West Midlands Police and Crime Panel, found himself in the unenviable position of having to discuss how to replace Mr Jones within four hours of being told of his passing.

There then followed a debate between Government departments over whether '35 days' meant calendar or business days and whether the 'relevant event' (such a cold and clinical term) meant Mr Jones' passing or some formal notification.

If we leave aside the gross insensitivity of a law that requires a vacancy to be filled so quickly, it is also a bureaucratic nightmare.

The PCC for the West Midlands covers not fewer than seven council areas. Three of them are cities and one of those is Birmingham, the second biggest in the country.

Then there will be the work for the political parties and candidates, who must select people to stand for them and get all the paperwork through.

There will need to be the time to come up with campaign literature.

Meanwhile the work of the PCC must continue. An interim appointment will be made later this month.

But what happens if the temporary post holder, likely to be deputy PCC Yvonne Mosquito, wants to throw her hat into the ring?

Will she be allowed to campaign while technically the incumbent?

All the while, we continue to mourn the loss of Bob Jones CBE, who never believed the role of a PCC should exist in the first place.

In a letter to the Express & Star in 2012, thanking voters and pledging to serve everyone, regardless of how or even if they voted, Mr Jones wrote: "I believe police and crime commissioners are an expensive and unnecessary change, poorly implemented and appallingly publicised."

Were he with us today he would be within his rights to say the chaos following his death had proved him correct.

But he'd be too busy quietly getting on with the job for that.

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Enrol between 22nd August to 12th September 2014

Latest departure is a big loss for listeners

ADRIAN Goldberg has announced that he will be leaving Radio WM this August. I, and doubtless many of his listeners, wish him well and hope that he will further his career in broadcasting.

Many regretted the departure of the warm and friendly Carl Chinn last year. The reasons for his leaving are still unclear. What replaced him has done nothing to help the sense of community which Carl encouraged.

Radio WM has turned into a mish-mash of inappropriate pop music with the occasional item of local interest. What was once an enjoyable listen has now become a quick grasp at the volume control to turn down screeching music and loud trailers.

Ed Doolan left a considerable gap when he semi retired, and, like Carl, has not been remotely replaced in the affections of listeners.

I was listening to Radio Bristol the other day and the presenter was a most agreeable chap. No telling callers to hurry up because 'they had to go to travel news'. No raucous music. It was all very well done. Are listeners in the West Midlands so very different that we don't deserve the same? Don't get me wrong. Some of the output of WM is very good. Iain Lee on Saturday mornings is witty and obliging to his listeners. Adrian Goldberg and Caroline Martin are good but why litter the latter's show with inane music when she is so good at reacting to her audience?

So WM, get Mr Chinn back and scout around for someone to fill the gap when Adrian leaves. Perhaps Les Ross might be encouraged to return? And, for goodness sake, cut the amount of music.

C K MILLWARD, Tipton

Get them to collect their post

RE dog attacks on posties

When I was a lad I delivered morning and evening newspapers around our estate and you knew which houses had dogs that were troublesome to paper boys, so I know what's it's like for the postmen delivering letters.

Dog owners have a responsibility to ensure their dogs are out of bounds until the post has been delivered. There are people who are not responsible.

There has been a 15 percent increase over the last twelve months in Dudley and Wolverhampton — that is 39 postmen who have been bitten.

There is a simple answer to this. The post office should inform the people where there are nuisance dogs that their post will be at the post office waiting for them to collect it themselves

B WHITEHOUSE, Kingswinford

LETTERS to the Editor

POST
Dudley Chronicle, Chronicle Editorial, 51-53 Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES

E-MAIL
dudley.chrons@expressandstar.co.uk

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

Don't forget the two-wheeled menace

THE reaction of normal, sensible people to the recent Chronicle and Express & Star reports that Dudley and other councils have joined forces to get an injunction against the so called 'boy racers' who infest many of our main roads and side streets, will be 'and about time too!'

It's nothing short of a miracle that no one has been killed or seriously injured by one of these morons on Birmingham Road as they roar off Burntree Tesco car park and onto the Southern Bypass.

And I've lost count of the number of occasions that two or more of them, who were obviously racing each other, have gone by me on the bypass as If I were standing still.

Anti-social behaviour is cited as one of the reasons for seeking the injunction against them, so hopefully the same councils will not stop there and will go after another equally idiotic group — namely those who ride around aimlessly at all hours of the day and night on their silly little motor scooters that sound like demented wasps.

R A SARGEANT, Dudley

Nature but not dogs

REGARDING the appointment of a new chief executive of the local Wildlife Trusts (Chronicle, June 19), wouldn't you say that 'forty-two grand' was rather a lot for managing a series of dog runs?

Just where in the region might a civilised man enjoy the wonders of nature without an artificial canine's bark or some hateful hound jumping-up and sniffing his midriff?

DAVID AUSTIN, High Street, The Lye, Stourbridge

World Cup cuts the bill

THE only good thing I have to say about this World Cup is thank you for the huge saving in electricity bills — our television has been off more than it has been on. There are actually people who don't want to watch football, so why do we have to put up with it night after night on all channels.

J JAMES, Wordsley

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COMMERCIAL FEATURE

Don't be disappointed - choose Choices Windows

The home improvement market is changing and the demand for more choice in colour and suitability of PVC-U doors and windows is growing. Fashionable additions such as orangeries are increasingly desirable, as more people look for ways to improve their home.

Established since 1994, Tipton Windows & Conservatories Ltd, trading as Choices , believe that the latest trends are important, but quality products and exceptional service will always be paramount, which this family run business have proven over two decades.

Situated on Sedgley Road West in Tipton, the founder and company Managing Director Nathan Beddows started the business from scratch at the early age of 19 working out of the very same premises as he does today, He explains his passion:

"I cannot stress enough how much pride we take in every window, door, conservatory, orangery we manufacture and install."

With its roots in manufacturing, the business started more than 20 years ago, and right from the very start an emphasis has been placed on supplying only the finest and most energy-efficient products, but still remaining affordable.

"Our commitment extends beyond the manufacturing process to the design and installation of doors, windows, conservatories and other home improvement services," explains Nathan.

"For some customers we supply new windows and doors, for others we provide a complete home improvement service from building extensions and fitting kitchens, to designing and installing conservatories and more recently Orangeries," says Nathan.

One tremendously satisfied customer is Rick Houghton. Having being recommended to Choices Windows by colleagues at work he employed them to carry out extensive work at his home, he is keen to share his experiences and commend the team involved.

"Every stage of the process was excellently planned and we received nothing but the best service from start to finish. The tradesmen were outstanding and we were so impressed that we handed over our keys and went on holiday whilst the work was being carried out."

Rick and his family were absolutely thrilled and utterly delighted with the results on their return.

"We are so grateful to Nathan and his team for transforming our home into something we could only have dreamed of," remarked Rick.

Keen to keep ahead in the style stakes, Nathan is ever aware of the latest designs, materials and colours on offer, and strives to make these available to his customers.

"Many people are now opting for stylish coloured PVC-U, influenced by timeless muted 'National Trust' tones. Sage green, gun metal grey and cream are all becoming very fashionable alongside the traditional clean bright white," explains Nathan.

Fitting new PVC-U windows can be a good choice for the environment as well as for your home. Replacing dated double glazing can help save money on heating bills and reduce the carbon footprint of a residence.

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"As a company we pride ourselves on giving old fashioned value for money and excellent service, we can undertake the majority of jobs and because we manufacture in house at our premises unlike the majority of our local competitors it enables us to have full control so we can manage your project from start to completion ensuring your experience is stress free".

"After many years in the Double glazing business we have seen a lot of competitors come and go, unfortunately leaving many customers without any warranty, after parting with their hard earned cash. Any customer who is considering having any home improvements should choose carefully and do their homework on the company they are considering, ensure if you part with money upfront it is protected by a Fensa approved deposit indemnity scheme, ask to visit previous customers but most importantly don't be fooled by the salesmen's tactics of a tempting "sign on the night low price offer" that the double glazing industry is notorious for "advises Nathan.

The old sayings are always the best - after a low price is long forgotten, poor quality long remains".

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NEWS in brief

Air scouts fund a new war memorial

A NEW memorial will take pride of place at an event to commemorate the Battle of Britain thanks to the fundraising efforts of a scout group.

Halfpenny Green Air Scout Group raised around £350 to contribute towards the construction of the tribute, which has been erected at the entrance to Halfpenny Green Airport, near Stourbridge.

The piece was produced by Wombourne Funeral Services & Memorials on Bridgnorth Road who also provided a proportion of the funding.

It is set to take centre stage at the group's upcoming Battle of Britain Memorial Service which will be held at the airport at 10.30am on September 14.

Dance and drama on city streets

A FESTIVAL returns for a second year with three weekends of free outdoor performances around Birmingham Hippodrome.

Summer in Southside will take place on August 9, 16, 23 and 24 with 100 artists taking part.

Performances will take place around Hurst Street and the Arcadian centre, ranging from drama to dance and circus skills.

Events run from 1pm to 7pm on each of the days.

Artists from the Midlands will perform on August 9 and European acts on August 16.

The free festival will culminate in a Bank Holiday jamboree on August 23 and 24.

Maximum punishment call after cruel killing of dog

AN MP has written to Government ministers and the police calling for those who killed a dog found hanging from a metal chain to receive a tough punishment.

Community leaders have condemned the attack on the young dog which had been tied to a railing 15ft above street level near a primary school in Dudley.

The body of a male Staffie/Mastiff cross was discovered by a horrified member of the public in Bishop Close, close to Kates Hill Primary School.

RSPCA inspector Dave McCartney attended the scene after a member of the public reported what they described as a 'dog nailed to a wall' at 2am on Saturday.

Dudley South MP Chris Kelly has written to the Home Secretary Theresa May, Justice Secretary Chris Grayling and West Midlands Police chiefs. He said: "I hope that Dudley Police are successful in finding and arresting the culprit or culprits and that the full weight of the law — including the maximum sentence — will be applied in the event of a successful conviction. A strong message must be sent out across the country that animal cruelty is unacceptable."

Dudley North MP Ian Austin, whose constituency covers Kates Hill. is offering a reward in a bid to catch those responsible. He said: "Decent people will be appalled by such a horrendous crime. It is utterly barbaric and you have to question the mentality of the people responsible.

"I know local people will be outraged that this could happen in Dudley. I get a lot of correspondence from local people about animal welfare and I have worked hard to campaign on animal welfare issues. Incidents like this remind us why much more still needs to be done.

"Someone must know who did this and I hope they come forward with any information they have. That's why I'm offering a reward of £250 for anyone who provides information leading to the conviction of the people responsible for this crime."

He urged those with information to get in touch with the RSPCA on 0300 123 8018 or contact him in confidence on (01384) 342 503 or at ian.austin.mp@parliament.uk.

Youngsters in church tidy up

GREEN fingered volunteers have spruced up the grounds of a Black Country church as part of a two week project organised by the Prince's Trust.

St Peter's Church in Cradley has undergone a garden makeover thanks to a group of 12 volunteers from Wolverhampton City College. The cleanup campaign was undertaken over 10 days and the team of volunteers, all aged between 16-25, celebrated their hard work with a small garden party organised by the church.

Team leader Nicki Tinker said: "The community project at the church included creating a memorial area for people who have lost a child or suffered a miscarriage. It is a quiet area where we have planted some bulbs and added some seating."

The 55-year-old from Netherton added: "We have also cleared an area for a memorial orchard where people can plant fruit trees in memory of a loved one. The volunteers have spent the past two weeks digging up over grown bramble and weeds. They have really got stuck in and got their hands dirty as part of their 12 week personal development programme."

The Prince's Trust volunteer group visits the church every six months.

Comic theft no laughing matter

One of the flat-cap wearing suspects is pictured by CCTV

POLICE want to speak to two men in connection with the theft of more than £400 worth of Marvel comics from a shop in Stourbridge

The theft took place last month at WH Smith in the Ryemarket Shopping Centre in Stourbridge.

The theft happened between 12.17pm and 12.25pm on June 4.

Police have now released CCTV images of the two men they want to speak with in connection to the incident.

Caps

The men, both wearing flat caps, had a wheeled trolley with them.

Anyone with information or anyone who recognises the men is asked to call Pc Nicola Moore on the non-emergency 101 number. Or they can contract independent charity Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

A West Midlands Police spokesman added: "Shoplifting is not a victimless crime and can have a detrimental affect on local businesses.

"Law abiding members of the community pay for their shopping, as should everybody else."

Thriller for author as trailer is released

IT IS billed as one of the year's biggest blockbusters with a cast including Nicole Kidman and Colin Firth.

The film adaptation of Black Country author Steve Watson's debut novel Before I Go To Sleep will be released on September 5.

A trailer has been unveiled and anticipation is now building for the film, which went into production two years ago.

Hollywood heavyweights Nicole Kidman and Colin Firth take the lead roles in the adaptation of Mr Watson's book, a tense psychological thriller.

Mr Watson, a former pupil at Wordsley School and King Edward VI Sixth Form College, wrote the novel under the name SJ Watson. He has given the film his blessing and spent a number of days on set in London during filming.

The rights were snapped up by producer Ridley Scott and the movie is directed by Rowan Joffe.

Mr Watson started writing the book as a hobby while working as an audiology specialist in London. It was the fourth best-selling book of 2012, behind the Fifty Shades of Grey trilogy.

The author added: "I went to see filming a few times. It was great, and a very moving experience, but quite surreal. It was amazing to see Nicole Kidman acting out scenes that I had written."

Mr Watson is now working on his follow-up novel.

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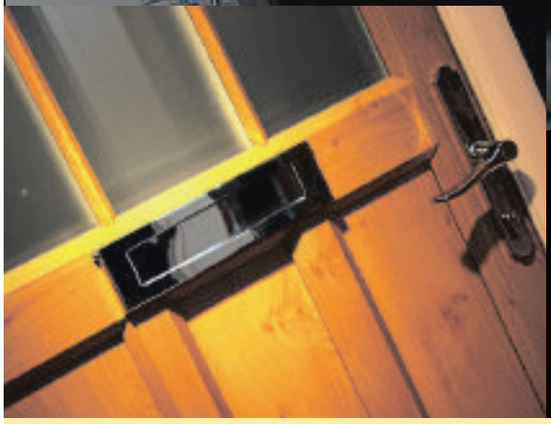

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Aynuk is the face of painting for festival

Artist David Jones, with his unfinished painting of Aynuk, Councillor Hilary Bills and musician Danni G

HIS cheeky grin and infectious humour is as well known in the Black Country as faggots and paes. And now an image of the popular comic Aynuk is being committed to canvas for an auction as part of Black Country Day celebrations.

Wordsley's Red House Glass Cone is hosting a three-day festival of comedy, music and poetry for the Black Country Festival from Friday to Sunday. And the master of mirth himself is having his mischievous smile recreated for a painting to be auctioned during the weekend.

Wollaston artist David Jones, aged 38, has been commissioned to create a painting of Aynuk, aka Alan Smith, for the festival organised between Dudley Council and KMS events. It is in its final stages ready to go on sale for charity with proceeds for the day going to the Tettenhall Horse and Donkey Sanctuary.

Firm fined £53k after worker lost two fingers

A WELDING machine manufacturer has been fined £53,000 after safety failings led to a worker losing two fingers.

by Andrew Turton

Self-employed electrical contractor Ian Mowbray was working at MTI Welding Technologies Ltd in Kingswinford when his fingers were crushed. The 49-year-old from Wolverhampton was trying to rectify a problem on a high-friction welding machine when the incident happened on August 23 last year.

Dudley Magistrates Court heard he pressed the wrong button, closing the powerful hydraulic holding fixture on to his left hand. His middle and ring fingers were so badly crushed that they had to be amputated in hospital.

Mr Mowbray was off work for three weeks but has since returned to the company on Pensnett Trading Estate, off Stallings Lane.

The court was told MTI Welding Technologies failed to report the incident to the Health and Safety Executive (HSE). It only came to light four weeks later when HSE received an anonymous complaint which led to an unannounced inspection.

The investigation found the company had acquired the machine from another firm that had modified it from a safe, automatically-loaded one. Over-riding the interlocks meant the door to the safety enclosure could be opened without stopping the machine.

The organisation claimed the visit revealed radial arm drill was running without a suitably maintained safety switch, leaving operators inadequately protected. It's use was banned until the fault was repaired.

MTI Welding Technologies Ltd pleading guilty to breaching the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974, the Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations 1995 and the Provision and Use of Work Equipment Regulations 1998.

It was fined £53,000 and ordered to pay costs of £3,100.

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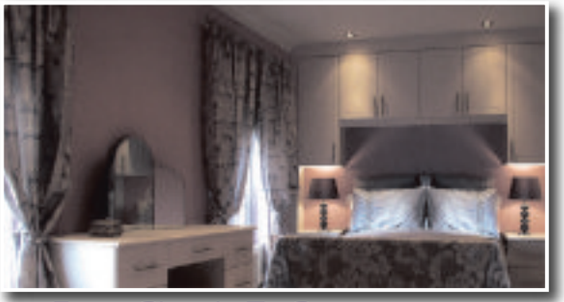

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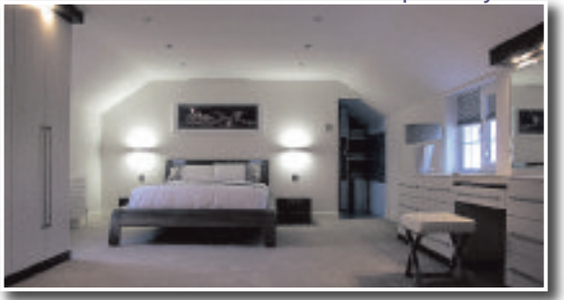

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£3m fire station operational next month

BUILDING work is gathering pace on a new multi-million pound fire station in the Black Country.

Work is on track for the £3 million station serving Halesowen and Cradley Heath to be open by the end of August to fire crews.

Finishing touches are being made to the site, at the junction of Barrs Road and Halesowen Road, once site of former municipal buildings.

History

The history of the council buildings will be remembered with a plaque planned in commemoration to be put in place ahead of the grand opening.

But also bosses say they wanted the building to have architecture fitting for a landmark site on a road used by thousands of motorists a month.

Glass windows soar up from ground level at the entrance to the newly named Haden Cross Community Fire Station. Three bays have been created, for the main fire crew and a smaller response vehicle.

Lack of staff led to a £14m agency bill for region's hospitals

HOSPITALS in the West Midlands forked out £14 million on agency staff in a year because of a shortage of nurses and other workers to fill shifts.

Figures show the bill for agency workers for the five NHS Trusts covering the Black Country and Staffordshire more than doubled in 2013/2014. It was £6.3m in 2012/13.

Tens of thousands of shifts at hospitals are being filled by agency workers and latest figures include a nurse paid more than £1,400 for a 12-hour shift on a bank holiday, working out to almost £120 per hour.

Soaring

Bosses blame increasing patient numbers and staff sickness for the soaring spending.

Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust saw its bill triple to £2,192,700.

Dudley North MP Ian Austin said: "After recent reports that Dudley hospitals are £1.38 million in debt, I'm really concerned to hear that they're spending millions on agency staff. The fact is local hospitals don't have the staff they need after the Tories squandered £3 billion on reorganising the NHS instead of frontline staff, losing 6,000 nurses as a result.

"Doctors, nurses and other staff are working flat out at Russells Hall but, thanks to Tory health policies, waiting times are up, cancelled operations are at their highest level in a decade and hospitals are going millions into debt."

Sharon Williams, spokeswoman for Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust, said: "Whilst there has been significant investment in the workforce, bank and agency staff are used to support wards when required and provide the best possible patient care.

"The need to keep all capacities open throughout the year and ensure safe staffing levels in wards has meant that agency costs continue to be incurred."

The Sandwell and West Birmingham Hospitals NHS Trust was the biggest spender in the region, paying out £5,828,000 on agency nurses to cover more than 31,000 shifts.

Staff sickness, an increase in patients suffering from dementia so needing more attention and the growing population had all contributed to the need for agency staff, according to Colin Ovington, director of nursing at the trust, which includes Sandwell Hospital.

Bank celebrates milestone

Mayor of Dudley Councillor Margaret Aston and branch manager Vikki Hurst

STAFF at a bank in Lye have celebrated its 100th anniversary.

Lloyds Bank on High Street organised for customers to get involved in the birthday celebrations and the branch held a party, with Mayor of Dudley Councillor Mrs Margaret Aston as guest of honour, to mark the 100th year of the bank moving into the town.

The bank first opened in Lye on June 17 1914 andtook over the premises at number 22, High Street.

In the October of 1966 the branch moved to number seven, where it remains today and staff invited customers to celebrate with cupcakes.

Branch manager Claire Guy, said: "We invited local customers to come into the branch and celebrate with us and we got a local cake maker and photographer to help us celebrate and capture our special milestone. We wanted all our celebration efforts to come from the community.

"The town has such a lovely community atmosphere and, as well as local people, many local businesses use the bank and we are proud to say we know each one of our customers personally."

The branch has five members of full time staff.

Safari park in bid to become water attraction

A WATER park complete with indoor beaches and slides, hotel and 'jungle' area is part of the £80 vision to transform West Midland Safari Park.

The project at the attraction near Kidderminster will be the biggest revamp of the site in decades and is designed to attract thousands more visitors.

The work would be carried out over the next 10 years and bosses said it would turn the attraction into a fully-fledged resort that could rival Alton Towers.

Plans are also in the pipeline to link the safari park with the Severn Valley Railway via a new safari park stop.

The water park would have a jungle-themed environment featuring pools, rides and slides around coves and beaches.

Officials say the water park would be built on the side of Bunkers Hill and include water slides snaking in and out of the building. The site would also include a shop and a restaurant.

Full plans for the water park are set to be submitted to Wyre Forest District Council in August. The expansion of the park is expected to create 500 jobs.

Talented teen is tuning up to be top of the pops

A TEENAGER from the Black Country is hoping to sing her way to stardom after reaching the finals of two national competitions.

Holly Wright has been performing across the region for a few years. But now the 14-year-old from Old Hill is hoping to wow judges in top contests.

The St Michael's pupil will be performing in the grand final of Teen Star at the NEC in Birmingham on Saturday, July 19, before heading to Blackpool on September 26 for the final of Talent Fest UK.

She said: "I'm not nervous actually, I think I get more excited than anything else. I'll be singing Show Me Heaven by Maria McKee,as it's a song I really like."

The potential pop star, from Forest Drive, started singing at the age of nine when her primary school teacher convinced her parents Michelle and Andrew to get her singing lessons. She has been performing around the West Midlands and as far away as Scotland.

Holly is to go to Birmingham Ormiston Academy for creative and performing arts in September. She sings at the OH Festival on Saturday at Spring Meadow Social Club in Old Hill.

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Talk about hospital an eye-opener

WALSALL CENTRAL

AS the chairman of Walsall Central Townswomen's Guild was on vacation the chairman-elect Ann Smith fronted the July meeting.

Following the formal matters it was announced that due to unforeseen circumstances the scheduled speaker for the evening was unable to be present, but the speakers' secretary had been lucky enough to secure the aid of Lawrence Parkes, whose "day job" was Federation Treasurer but was also passionately involved in the charity Hamlin Fistula UK.

This charity supported the Addis Abada Fistula Hospital in Ethiopia which had been set up in 1974 by Drs Reginald and Catherine Hamlin.

It cares for women with devastating childbirth and related injuries. All care, treatment and surgery is completely free of charge.

Since its opening, great advancements have been made, but there remains much more to be achieved. Unfortunately Dr Reginald Hamlin died in 1993, but his wife, Catherine – now 90 years of age – continues with the work they began together.

The presentation by Lawrence was truly eye-opening and everyone in the room that evening felt very humbled by the wonderful work being carried out.

The chairman-elect announced that future social events included a cream tea at the home of the chairman Pat Jones on July 17 and there will be a coffee morning/bring and buy at a member's home on August 5.

Friendships formed in twinning venture

Pennants are exchanged to mark the twinning of Sandwell and Manzini Lions

SANDWELL LIONS

SANDWELL Lions Club have successfully twinned with Manzini LIons Club in Swaziland, Southern Africa.

Two club members visited the country in May to attend a twinning ceremony. This was the culmination of 12 months of communication between the two clubs to work together in a joint venture.

Sandwell members Ray and Ann Staniland of Oldbury used to live in Swaziland and were keen to have some input in assisting with a local project in Manzini.

The project involved is building a basic two-room house for a grandmother of seven who lost their wattle and mud home in a fire. A cheque was presented to Manzini Lions for £1,000 to assist with this project. Pennants were exchanged and friendships formed.

Sandwell Lions Club meet every first and third Tuesday at St Huberts church hall, Clent Road Oldbury at 8pm. Anyone wishing to make friends and helppeople less fortunate, together, with great social events, is invited to attend an informal meeting.

Laburnum Arch in full flower

PENN TG

MRS Sutton introduced Mr & Mrs Fawdrey with a talk entitled 'Only when the Plane comes in'.

Mr Fawdrey described how the MAF, Mission Aviation Fellowship, came into being.

After the Second World War, there were many pilots and engineers who were willing to give their services to the Christian Aviation charity. In many isolated communities a visit to hospital could mean a two to three day walk, but with MAF, it becomes an 11-minute flight. They now operate in 25 developing countries.

The Gardening Group enjoyed a visit to Bodnant Gardens in North Wales and were lucky enough to see the Laburnum Arch in full flower.

Social Studies speaker was Iain Watkins, head of marketing & communications at the Grand Theatre.

A strawberry supper for members only takes place on July 23.

Meetings are held at Penn United Community Hall, Penn Road. New members and visitors are welcome.

Melodic mixture of acoustic music

Jess Burgess

Olly Flavell

Jen Robins

Richard Wellington

Baddies' Boogie, Newhampton Arts Centre, W-ton

ANOTHER raft of talented individuals from all over the Midlands were brought together in Whitmore Reans by promoters Baddies' Boogie for more thoroughly enjoyable acoustic music.

This offering was probably the most eclectic yet with the Silhouettes and their indie/electronica sound; the sophisticated sound of Jess Burgess and the singing of Richard Wellington all of who hail from Wolverhampton.

Dotted in between were Newport's Olly Flavell and the big sound of Stourbridge's Jen Robins.

Opener Flavell fell victim to a broken string but was soon back on stage singing his version of the much-covered Valerie.

Flavell has a really solid and tuneful voice but he does try too hard to sound soulful and crowds his singing with vocal tricks.

He does have a good range but it felt as if he was trying to use every trick in the book and consequently his voice was up and down, with harmonies sometimes sounding forced.

Jen Robins took over with her likeable girlish singing and a definite confident stage presence.

She too has a strong, tuneful voice with that Dolly Parton warble underneath occasionally.

Review

However, similar to Flavell, she tries too hard to have this soulful diva sound which she honestly doesn't need.

Robins' voice is good, powerful and produces some lovely deep harmonies which remind sometimes of the legend Parton.

Distinctive

She was followed by Jess Burgess who has a very distinctive voice and sophisticated sound. At first she looked a little uncomforta

ble on stage but she launched into her first track Mardy Bum with confidence sounding uncannily like Lily Allen when she first burst onto the pop scene.

There is this air of coolness about her and she looked as sophisticated as she sounded.

She really gave an example of how strong and clear her voice was with her version of White Noise from Disclosure.

Taking over the stage next, quite literally with a bewildering array of wires, gizmos and equipment, were Silhouettes.

This time they were a mere duo of Nathan Till and Jay Cuthill although they do have a bigger line up.

Till, who did most of the singing, has a melancholic voice and their sound harkens back to the experimental sounds of early Pink Floyd but you can definitely hear influences from Radiohead, Massive Attack and Coldplay in there.

Their sound is thoughtful, ethereal, clever and multi-stranded almost, in some cases, psychedelic.

Finishing off the night was Richard Wellington and to be fair to Wellington his nerves got the better of him.

More used to being part of a group, Militia Inc, being up on stage alone with a guitar did him no favours.

Picking a massive song like Black Sabbath's Paranoid and committing the schoolboy error of not tuning the instrument beforehand didn't help either.

But you have to give Wellington his due, it's not easy to stand in the spotlight all alone in front of an audience where there is nowhere to hide.

Also to his credit Wellington was not afraid to tackle the big numbers, but he never really relaxed.

It wasn't that bad a performance and it would certainly be worth hearing him again.

The next Baddies' Boogie is July 19 in the upstairs room of Talk, Birmingham.

Danny Farragher

Leader attacks 'abuse of power'

DANIEL WAINWRIGHT speaks to a veteran Black Country councillor who fears the impact of cuts

DRASTIC cuts in council funding are part of an 'abuse of power' by the Government, according to senior Dudley councillor David Sparks.

Were he 'merely' the leader of a metropolitan borough council, a 37-year veteran of local politics, it might not be an unusual remark. But Councillor Sparks is the firstWest Midlands chairman of the influential Local Government Association.

He has just taken up the post, overseeing the national body that represents all but two local authorities in England ,and as such his words carry a weight far beyond the borough of Dudley.

Dudley's David Sparks has been appointed chairman of the local government association

Warnings

Now, he makes a series of stark warnings, saying:

Cuts in funding to councils are so severe that many will do nothing more than look after vulnerable adults and children within four or five years.

Council tax is in need of a major reform or even replacement.

Authorities in the West Midlands must have a greater say over their funding to compete with London and Greater Manchester.

Local democracy has been 'eroded' by Westminster politicians taking more control.

There is 'no more money' to give workers going on strike today (July 10) the pay rises they demand.

The Dudley Council leader is quietly angry at how councils have been banned from raising council tax by more than two per cent without holding a referendum, something no authority would ever win.

"The fundamental abuse of power has been how local councils have been singled out by the Government to bear the brunt of public expenditure cuts," said Councillor Sparks.

"For the past 20 years there has been a gradual erosion in the freedom of individual citizens to determine the local services themselves," says 65-year-old local government veteran. "This has now resulted in a system of government that is broken.

"Councils have been cut back to a level that they can no longer satisfy the minimum standards that their citizens want. Some, such as Wolverhampton, have even said they were on the verge of bankruptcy. We also know that English councils get a raw deal when compared with Scotland and Wales."

"The elephant in the room is the council tax system," Councillor Sparks says. "It has never been fundamentally reviewed since it came into effect in 1993."

He says he wants to see a combined authority for the West Midlands, bringing Birmingham together with the Black Country. It sounds suspiciously like Greater Birmingham.

"I'm not bothered what you call it," added the Labour councillor.

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Two-tier market fear over property prices

HOUSE prices in parts of the West Midlands are lower now than at the worst point in the recession, despite a national upturn in the market.

Fears of a two-tier recovery were raised as houses in areas like Bilston were shown to have dropped eight per cent in value since 2009 while a home in affluent Solihull has shot up 16 per cent.

Areas like Wolverhampton and Walsall have seen a little change since 2009 but a sudden increase in the past year. Yet homes in Stourbridge, Dudley, Kidderminster, Willenhall and Cannock are all being sold for less now than five years ago.

According to figures from the Halifax, In Bilston an average home will change hands for £107,008, compared with £268,042 in Solihull. But despite the low growth in prices, four out of five properties on the market are out of reach of the average working family looking to buy their first home, according to housing charity Shelter.

Foam surrounds the scene at Wolverhampton Halfpenny Green Airport after the crash last week

Pilot's lucky escape after wheel collapses on landing

A PILOT had a lucky escape after his plane crashed during landing at an airport in South Staffordshire.

The Piper PA-28 Cherokee was coming into land at Wolverhampton Halfpenny Green Airport at Bobbington, near Stourbridge, on July 2 at 11am when its front wheel collapsed causing it to skid along the runway.

The plane was being flown by a male pilot and there were no passengers on board at the time of the crash.

Fire crews based at the airport were scrambled to the plane and sprayed it with foam to prevent any fire starting.

Airport officials say that the pilot was uninjured. They were unable to reveal where the plane was flying from.

Alastair Mackinnon, the operational manager at Wolverhampton Halfpenny Green Airport, said: "At around 11am the Piper PA-8 Cherokee has come into land and as it has done so the front wheel has collapsed.

"It has skidded along the run way and come to a stop – it was a simple collision.

"One male was on board, the pilot, and there were no injuries. The fire service that is based at the airport sprayed the plane with foam but this was precautionary and to prevent any possibility of a fire starting."

Campaign to tackle rising tide of sex abuse cases

THERE were 225 cases of child sexual exploitation in the West Midlands in a year and the disturbing trend is still growing

The figures have been revealed as a campaign is launched to save protect from abuse.

Councils and police have banded together to set up the 'See Me, Hear Me' campaign to encourage people to spot the warning signs of abuse in a child's behaviour.

by Daniel Wainwright

A website has been launched which contains information about the 'hidden crime' of child sex exploitation (CSE). Information packs are being offered as well as guidance for people who work in hotels, leisure centres and taxi companies.

Dudley, Wolverhampton, Sandwell, Walsall, Coventry, Birmingham and Solihull councils are involved with West Midlands Police.

Hidden

There were 82 cases of CSE in Birmingham in 2013/14, 34 in Sandwell, 29 in Dudley, 29 in Walsall, 20 in Wolverhampton, 15 in Solihull and 16 in Coventry — the numbers are increasing. Since April 2014 alone there have been 65 more cases in Birmingham, 21 in Wolverhampton, nine in Dudley, four in Sandwell, three in Walsall, 15 in Coventry and five in Solihull.

The rise has been put down to the work of a specialist team identifying cases that would previously have been recorded differently.

Stephen Rimmer, West Midlands lead for tackling CSE, said: "Child sexual exploitation has been a hidden crime for far too long. The perpetrators deliberately target some of our most vulnerable children, whether online or in public places, and believe they will not be caught. This has to end now.

"For the first time, all of the agencies with responsibility for tackling this abuse across the West Midlands are working to common standards of reporting and investigation. This must be matched by greater public awareness.

"No school or community is immune from this threat. The relentless depiction of online porn is placing ever greater pressure on pre and early teenagers.

"We must work together to protect our children from manipulative abusers of all ages and backgrounds, and fight back against accepting as 'normal' the depiction of aggressive and exploitative sexual relationships."

Warning signs can include having older friends, a child persistently going missing, secretive relationships with unknown adults, truancy, chronic fatigue, constant mobile phone calls, possession of money or new things.

The website is at www.seeme-hearme.org.uk and anyone concerned about the safety of a young person can call police on 101 or Barnardo's on 0121 3595333.

Quantum leap to a new factory for firm

A GROWING fibreglass manufacturing firm has moved out of Stourbridge and into one of the former Sealine boat factories in Kidderminster.

The 50,000 sq factory has been empty since Sealine collapsed last year but now Quantum Mouldings is set to move in and boss Peter Wooldrige says his firm will be looking to recruit some of Sealine's skilled workers.

Growing workloads spurred the move from Quantum's home of 30 years in Enville Street, Stourbridge, and the firm is adding another 10 workers to its 25-strong workforce. Mr Wooldridge is hoping to double the company's workforce if turnover continues to grow at its current rate.

The company makes car trailers and hard tops for pick-up trucks but is also moving into new markets such as housings for wind turbines and parts for the new Agility Global electric motorbike. The recession saw the company halve in size but has built back up and is busier than ever.

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Women seeking men

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JULIE really fun loving slim pretty female 38 looking for nice guy to go out with, get to know and hopefully enjoy a relationship with. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 411517**

SAM, 35yrs, own business, sexy, loves dressing up and married, seeks discreet man for casual meetings. Can travel anywhere. ACA. **Tel No: 0905 002 1949 Box No: 408297**

RITA naughty 40's petite pretty female looking for that special man in my life, any age, to get to know and see what happens, you only live once remember! **0906 500 3955 Box No: 410959**

DIANE voluptuous curvy and all woman, loves dancing, walking, cosy nights in, WLTM nice man for friendship, hopefully leading to something more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 412321**

SUSIE, married, adventurous/dominant lady, 38yrs, seeks discreet man any age/area for no strings fun. **Tel: 0905 002 1945 Box No: 412285**

SARA bored blonde looking for single gents for fun, chats and meets, looking forward to hearing from you, don't be shy. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 412055**

PROFESSIONAL black lady, likes cooking, music, countryside, seeking honest, reliable gent, possibly farmer for friendship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 411763**

JULIE loving, caring, honest, seeks real gent to share conversation and have a great time, friendship/relationship, who knows? **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 412777**

SALLY stunning lady looking for dinner dates, partying and generally having a good time with generous man looking for his mojo! No strings, go on call me. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 412599**

MAUREEN, discreet sensual lady, 42yrs seeks daytime fun at her home. ACA. **Tel No: 0905 002 1961 Box No: 405297**

DEBS petite attractive auburn haired, good listener, romantic, enjoys socialising, cosy nights in with Mr Right, seeking similar caring N/S single dad. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 412387**

JAN slim curvy professional warm, affectionate, looking to fill full time vacancy with similar male who loves cuddles/kisses and bikes for romance. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 412167**

ANNA, busty mature lady seeks no strings discreet meetings with male any age or location. **Tel No: 0905 002 1956 Box No: 366019**

ATTRACTIVE slim brunette, 47, N/S, seeks tall, slim male for a cut above the average relationship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 412725**

KAREN pretty blonde, short in stature, big personality, keeps fit, loves dogs, seeking honest, caring male who can make me laugh. Nothing too serious just fun. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 412377**

CHRISTINA, curvy beauty, 27yrs, own home, very very adventurous seeks no strings fun and frolics. Can accommodate and will answer all calls. **Tel No: 0905 002 1957 Box No: 410127**

JEAN petite female who enjoys golf, days out, cosy evenings in, holidays, WLTM older male in his 60's with a good personality and big heart. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 412359**

CAROL young 47, caring, loyal, likes music, concerts, cinema, theatre, seeks male with similar interests for fun times. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 411919**

VICKY 37yr professional, mum to one, sensual and very attractive, looking for a real man, tall, fit, sincere and passionate to enjoy each other's company. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 411695**

LUCY beautiful busty bubbly blonde 32yrs, seeking naughty boy to enjoy the fun side of life with, age, status and looks unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 411691**

LINDA single and living alone, attractive, young looking, bubbly, WLTM similar young at heart companion to be close with, enjoy chats and romantic dates. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410119**

WIDOW 68, 5ft 5ins, medium build, attractive, likes walks, reading, holidays, seeks sincere, N/S male. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 411745**

JEAN young at heart lady, active, 70 plus, N/S, GSOH, likes walks, gardening, outings, WLTM sincere, caring male, 69-74 for companionship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 411711**

EMMA petite young looking 31yr old attractive single brunette, loves walking, talking, music, seeks honest romantic 30-40yrs. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 412037**

ANNABELL 29 slim sophisticated well travelled interesting sensual fit brunette with lots to offer seeks older male to appreciate and treat me well. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 412177**

KAREN slim, tall, attractive 36yr old normal female who likes shopping, socialising, nights in/out seeking thoughtful genuine male. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 412041**

KIM 25yrs feminine, pretty, big blue eyes, GSOH, varied interests, likes romantic beach walks, cosy nights in, seeking honest loving man for ltr. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 411777**

Men seeking women

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MAURICE gentleman, 59, gentle, kind, caring, loving, generous, seeks lady with GSOH and similar personality, slim-medium build. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 412859**

MALE seeking female companion for outings, friendship and holidays. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 412705**

STEPHEN 58, good looking, likes art, travel, seeking female, 50 plus for companionship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 412633**

MALCOLM 61, smoker, great personality, likes coach holidays, drives, pubs, meals out, nights out, 60's music, seeks female. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 412523**

MALE 67, seeking lady 30-50 for friendship/companionship and occasional days/nights out. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 411293**

NORTH Shropshire male, 67, N/S, solvent, GSOH, likes walks, travel, music, holidays, countryside, seeks N/S lady for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 412867**

KEVIN 53, looking for a friend/partner and a lover. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 412869**

COUNTRY loving businessman, honest, medium build, N/S, OHAC, seeks professional, genuine, caring, honest, N/S female for loving relationship, 45-55. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 412445**

ALAN tall widower, 76, looking for female of similar age who enjoys meals out, holidays, walks and holidays. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 412261**

TALL slim gent, 60, seeks slim, attractive lady for no strings relationship. Discretion assured. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 412227**

TONY 52, dark hair, white male, 6ft, confident, GSOH, seeks black female. Genuine ad. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 412481**

TALL 42yr old sincere male, caring, honest, loving, seeking female, 30-40 for fun, friendship and good times. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 412483**

FIT bubbly male, athletic, blue eyes, short fair hair, easy going, loving, GSOH, seeking female for no strings fun. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 411901**

MALE WLTM pear shaped lady, 50-65. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 411109**

IAN 65, romantic, likes to wine/dine, days out, seeking younger female for relationship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 412087**

MARK fun loving, easy going, fair hair blue eyes, athletic, tanned, looking for good times. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 411989**

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Going Solo has left Han with passport problem

HIS namesake may pilot the Millennium Falcon through a distant galaxy but one Star Wars fan is having trouble popping on a plane to go overseas.

Dominic Kimberley, aged 35, from Stourbridge, changed his name to Han Solo in 2008 as a tribute to his favourite character from the blockbuster film franchise.

But the force wasn't with him when officials refused to renew his passport using his adopted moniker because it is based on a fictional character.

Arguing

Ever since changing his name, the accounts manager has introduced himself as Han and has his new name on bank cards and statements.

He has spent hours arguing his case to Home Office managers over the phone but his appeals have been unsuccessful so far. Now Mr Solo is concerned he is travelling abroad illegally with his old passport, which still uses his original name.

He said: "A chap I knew changed his surname to annoy his dad because they had an argument and told me about it. I didn't realise it was that easy to do so I thought I would have an experiment myself.

"I had booked a holiday to Thailand so sent my passport off with the deed poll letter and they sent it back saying I couldn't change it because it was a fictional character. I rang them and was on the phone for hours going from manager to manager but nobody would sort it out for me.

"I said to them what about Harry Potter or James Bond but they just said it was a point-blank no."

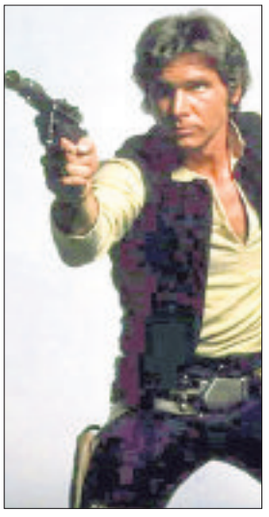
Mr Solo wrongly thought that the Passport Office would simply accept his name change. It has proved to be quite a costly mistake but, just like the rebels taking on the Empire, he is continuing his fight for his passport.

"I automatically assumed they would have to change my passport and it would go through fine," he said.

"It cost me a few hundred pounds because I had to re-book the holiday for a few months later.

"I went but I'm not sure if I was breaking the law or not by using two names. I am worried I could get banged up abroad in the future and I am wary about trying to travel again."

Star Wars fan Han Solo, aged 35



Han Solo played by Harrison Ford

Mr Solo paid £12 to change his name with the aid of The Legal Deed Service at the end of 2008.

He admitted the change had taken his mum Catherine, aged 59, and other members of family a while to get used to.

"My mum said, 'You've gone a galaxy too far this time.' But she saw the funny side.

"I introduce myself as Han Solo and most people laugh but old pals call me Dom."

No-one was available from the Home Office to comment.

Art of war in an animated story

GAMES

WAR business is good business for the games industry with many of the best selling titles being designed for armchair commandos but two new titles are a little different from the typical Battlefield and Call of Duty franchises.

Valiant Hearts: The Great War (available for most formats) is an animated comic book style side-scrolling adventure, blending puzzles and action, that follows the fate of several characters and a faithful hound during the First World War.

Destinies cross as a German soldier attempts to be reunited with his French wife, his father-in-law swaps life on the farm for life in the French army and a Belgian nurse does her best to save lives.

Emotion

Beautifully illustrated by Ubisoft's team in Montpellier, this is a compelling game that also teaches players about the 1914-18 conflict and actually becomes quite poignant. Emotion in a video game?! Think of Valiant Hearts as the gaming equivalent of that moment when the laughter stopped in Blackadder Goes Forth as our favourite comic characters went over the top to their collective doom.

Enemy Front stands out from the plethora of first-person shooters set in the Second World War because it chooses theatres of war, such as Poland and Norway, seldom explored by mainstream war games.

It opens with intense action during the Warsaw Uprising when the Polish resistance tried to drive the Nazis out of their capital city by throwing up barricades and using the sewers to launch surprise attacks. You play American journalist Robert Hawkins, a war correspondent who has abandoned any idea of impartiality as he joins the struggle against Nazi Germany.

Poignant war comic — a screenshot from Valiant Hearts: The Great War

Missions require stealth interspersed with gun-blazing action which gives this game its adult rating. Whilst the game play doesn't bring anything particularly new, the superbly realised settings from Poland's CI Games are impressive. If you like Sniper Elite III, it's worth checking this out and it is available for all major platforms.

If you prefer a wild flight of fancy, look no further than **One Piece Unlimited World Red**, the sort of mind-boggling adventure that no one does better than the Japanese. From Bandai Namco and based on the popular 'straw hat' manga (comics) created by Eiichiro Oda, this inhabits a bizarre world of monsters, heroes with incredible powers and heroines with chests that would rival Dolly Parton.

There is a Battle Coliseum mode for those who want to head straight to the battles with boss villains, or follow the story narrative as the Straw Hat Pirates, including a cute but deadly racoon named Pato, explore Forgotten Island and take on the Red Count.

One Piece is a weird, dazzling, fast-moving game with vibrant visuals. But for some the lack of an English dub (it's in Japanese with subtitles) may be a distraction and the absence of an online mode will put some potential players off. It is available for PS3, Vita, Wii U and 3DS and has a 12 plus certificate.

Gentlemen (and ladies), start your engines because the biggest and best motor sport games of the year has arrived in **GRID Autosport** (PS3, X360, PC), a slickly realised title from Codemaster that will fast become a favourite with console petrolheads. You can choose from a huge number of cars, hot hatches to F1, street and track circuits at 22 locations around the world, and five racing styles. Then there are a host of options to form Racing Clubs via the RaceNet powered multiplayer, party modes, demolition derby and head to head split-screen races to enhance the online experience.

Reviewed on X360 or PS3
by Leon Burakowski

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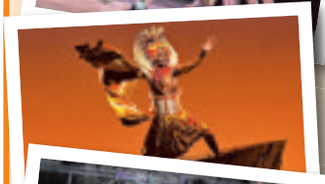

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Both trips include return coach travel, a choice of theatre ticket from an extensive list of shows, overnight bed and breakfast accommodation in an outer-London four-star hotel, along with some free time in the capital for shopping or sightseeing.

Pick-ups offered are Dudley, Shrewsbury, Telford, Walsall and Wolverhampton.

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Why not spend Christmas this year at one of the UK's premier seaside resorts?

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A full-day excursion on Christmas Eve travels through the beautiful New Forest National Park. There is free time in Brockenhurst, where the centre boasts a wealth of high quality shops, plus the famous watersplash where animals stop to drink, and Lyndhurst which is full of shops, cosy tearooms, old world pubs, cafes and restaurants. There is also the New Forest Museum which gives a unique guide into the forest's history and heritage.

The Boxing Day excursion visits Poole, home to the world's second largest natural harbour, followed by Norden on the Isle of Purbeck, where there is an optional single journey on the Swanage Steam Railway. Free time in Swanage follows; a quaint town with a Victorian Pier, award winning beaches and spectacular views of the Needles and the Isle of Wight.

Excursions are also included to Salisbury and Winchester, plus some free time to relax at the hotel or explore Bournemouth.

INFO

- Return coach travel
- Four nights half-board accommodation
- Traditional Christmas Day lunch
- Visits to Salisbury, Poole, Swanage and Winchester
- Tour of the New Forest National Park
- Free time in Bournemouth
- Entertainment programme
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Diamond Holidays (ABTA W0552)

for celebration with pride and passion

Comedian Lenny Henry proudly holds up high the flag

Fizzog are perform at the Red House Glass Cone, in Wordsley

Grand idea – Entertainer 'Duchess of Dudley' Lizzie Wiggins

Famous add their backing

DUDLEY-BORN comic Lenny Henry, Wolves star Danny Bath and even the Prime Minister, David Cameron – the celebration of all things Black Country is receiving approval from well-known famous faces.

Mr Cameron praised the plan to look at the culture, history and identity of the Black Country while on a recent visit to the region, promoting a multi-million pound investment plan by the Government.

Black Country Day will take place on Monday (14) but events are being held from Friday onwards.

Dudley-born funny man Lenny Henry has also given his personal backing to this weekend's events.

Visits

The 55-year-old has made several public visits to Dudley since he was made Freeman of the Borough last year. Sports stars from the area have also been getting in the spirit. Wolves star and Brierley Hill-born footballer Danny Batth also gave his support.

Black Country Day has already won praise from some of the area's best loved figures for putting the pride back into the area.

Entertainer 'Duchess of Dudley' Lizzie Wiggins says Black Country Day is a 'grand idea'and Jacky Fellows – one third of the popular Black Country comic trio and theatre group Fizzog Productions – believes the event will prove a popular addition to the calendar.

Anthem in vow to head up the charts

IT'S a moving song which was re-worked by gigging musicians to stir the soul of thousands around the Black Country and the world.

And now this patriotic ode is soaring up the charts as people get behind a band to celebrate all that is bostin' about the Black Country. Folk band The Empty Can say they have been left stunned for the support for their single I Vow to Thee, Black Country.

It has been named the official song for Black Country Day on July 14 and bandmates hope the song has proved a popular anthem for the occasion. Thousands have already download the song which reached number 32 in the UK official independent singles chart recently.

Rachel Slater and James Stevens, of The Empty Can band, who released I Vow to Thee Black Country

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Pupils looking at potential careers

Pupils with paramedic Lee Farley and first aid responder Lynne Churms

YOUNG pupils have been getting ideas for their future careers after police officers, volunteer paramedics and Express & Star staff paid a visit to their school.

Brockmoor Primary School, near Brierley Hill, has staged its own careers week hosting a range of inspirational guests to meet Years 5 and 6 pupils.

Staff combined the week of talks with visits to workplaces and job-based activitiesto boost their confidence.

Among those to attend was former Wolves and Preston North End footballer Dale Rudge, who now runs a coaching school called Bibs 'n' Balls.

Six pupils took part in a first aid session with volunteers from St John's Ambulance.

EDUCATION FEATURE

Ambitions

Lee Farley, who is a Community Paramedic, helped the children involved learn about valuable life skills.

These included calling for an ambulance, putting an unconscious casualty in the recovery position, helping someone who is choking or bleeding and recognising the symptoms of a heart attack.

They also practised CPR techniques in the event of cardiac arrest.

Staff from Birmingham Metropolitan College came to speak about further education and the range of courses available at college

Gwynneth Slavin, from the Express & Star's education advertising team, spoke about the newspaper industry.

She said "I was very impressed by these bright and interesting Year 5 and Year 6 pupils.

"Many of them already had a very clear idea of what they wanted to do in the future and I've no doubt that many of them will succeed in their ambitions.

"I talked to them about the wide range of careers available in both our newspapers and our online platforms, where we rely on different skills from everyone from journalists to van drivers to provide our readers with the best news service possible.

She added: "However, the best careers advice that I could give them was to do something that makes you happy and work hard at it!"

The pupils were asked for their impressions of careers week and also their thoughts on future plans:

Aroz, aged 10, said: "I would like to be an engineer and I want to work hard and succeed in life"

Healthy

Madijah, also aged 10, added: "Careers Week is useful because we get to discuss our future and what we want to be." Jazmin, aged 11, said "I want to be a horse trainer as I have a horse myself."

Shannon, also 11, has been inspired by her teachers and said: "I would like to be a PE teacher because I want to stay fit and healthy"

So has Aisha, 10, who added: "When I grow up I would like to be a teacher, because I like working with children and helping them succeed in their life"

Lesson time at Brockmoor Primary School, Brierley Hill

Pupils have explored future career options during a special week

Voluntary first aid responder Lynne Churms helps pupils with CPR

Brockmoor Primary

IT'S **ABOUT LEARNING**

CAREERS WEEK

Year 6 and Year 5 pupils at Brockmoor had inspiring talks from a number of visitors during a special week dedicated to helping them think about what they might like to be in the future.... here is what some of the children had to say afterwards.... some were clearly inspired by their visitors!

"I want to be a video game designer when I'm older" Aidan, aged 9

"Mr Pitt came in to talk to us about augmented virtual reality and we used the iPads" Sian, aged 11

"Careers Week is really interesting, they told us all about college" Lataya, aged 10

"In the future I would like to be a doctor because you get to help people" Farhaan, aged 10

"A paramedic came to talk to us about First Aid and we practised CPR on a dummy" Beau, aged 10

"When I'm older I want to a technician, working on computers" Dylan, aged 10

"When I grow up I'm going to try my best to be an art teacher because art inspires me" Ben, aged 10

"I want to be a footballer and play for Wolverhampton Wanderers" Morgan, aged 10

"When I am older I want to work with animals" Amelia, aged 10

"Careers week has been helpful because it encourages us to learn about different subjects and skills" Lauren, aged 10

"I would like to create new things such as robotic animals who behave just like the real ones" Annalese, aged 10

"I want to be an engineer and use technology to make the world a better place" Jacob, aged 11

Belle Isle, Brockmoor, Brierley Hill, DY5 3UZ | Headteacher Mr B Jones

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Aussies fresh from Monkeys business

AUSTRALIAN psychedelic rock band Tame Impala, whose second album Lonerism has become a cult classic, follow their Arctic Monkeys Finsbury Park support slot with a show in their own right at Birmingham's Institute venue, in Digbeth, on Monday.

The week's other plum gigs are at Bilston's Robin 2 with soulful singer/songwriter Jo Harman in concert tonight and acclaimed young guitarist Laurence Jones on Wednesday, July 16, with support from American retro jazzer Davina and her Vagabonds. Meanwhile, the soul sounds of Detroit's Tamla Motown label will be celebrated in The Magic of Motown on Sunday at Wolverhampton Grand Theatre.

Black Country fun at the cone

AN all day music festival is being staged in Stourbridge this Sunday for the Black Country Day Weekend.

The Redhouse Cone, Wordsley, has lined up a bill of local musicians including John Langford and Mark Busby Burrows. The event on Sunday will be outside and runs from 11am to 5pm, the same day as a poetry festival at the venue. But fun starts tomorrow night with comedy from New Black Country Night Out featuring Aynuk and The Fizzogs and there will be a celebration of cultural diversity on Saturday. See kmsevents.co.uk

Vinyl chance for Lenny to make his acting debut at The Rep

Uplifting holiday romance

THE stage adaptation of 1987 film Dirty Dancing arrives at the Wolverhampton Grand Theatre this September, offering audiences the opportunity to revel in dance and romance in an upstate New York holiday resort circa 1963.

The roles of Baby and Johnny were immortalised on the big screen by Jennifer Grey and Patrick Swayze, whose chemistry made such an impact as the Romeo and Juliet of Kellerman's holiday resort. So much so that each generation, Dirty Dancing becomes part of the VHS/DVD/Blu-Ray collection.

The stunning salsa and mesmerising merengue and, of course, that climatic lift when Baby jumps into Johnny's arms, will be performed again at the Grand from September 23 to October 11 with Gareth Bailey and Roseanna Frascona in the lead roles.

Having the time of their life — Gareth Bailey and Roseanna Frascona as Johnny and Baby

DUDLEY-BORN comedian and actor Lenny Henry will headline Birmingham Repertory Theatre's autumn and winter 2014 season.

The comic turned acclaimed dramatic actor will star in the stage premiere of Rudy's Rare Records from September 4 to 20, his first role at the theatre.

Based on his successful BBC Radio 4 series, written by Danny Robins and Henry, Rudy's Rare Records is a poignant comedy set in an old reggae record shop at risk of re-development in Birmingham.

Home

Henry plays Adam, son of shop owner Rudy, who reluctantly moves home to look after his dad and help run the shop.

Adapted for the stage by the writers, Rudy's Rare Records is directed by Paulette Randall and produced by Birmingham Repertory Theatre and Hackney Empire, where it will run after the premiere in Birmingham. The production will feature a live band onstage playing music made famous by Jimmy Cliff, Desmond Dekker and Bob Marley.

Henry said: "I've performed comedy gigs many times in Birmingham over the years, but this is my first straight acting role in the city and the first time I've been on stage at The Rep, which is something I'm really looking forward to.

Lenny Henry and his co-stars

"Growing up in Dudley I would come into Birmingham every Saturday to hang-out in a record shop not too dissimilar to Rudy's, so it's a play that's very close to my heart."

Roxana Silbert, artistic director at Birmingham Rep said: "We're delighted that Lenny will be bringing this brilliant show about three generations of a Birmingham family back home."

Tickets cost from £12.50 to £35. Call the box office on 0121 236 4455.

Funk and folk at niche festivals

FESTIVAL season is in full swing and music fans can fill the gap between Glastonbury and V with a boutique festival in Birmingham.

This weekend, from Friday to Sunday, is the Mostly Jazz Funk & Soul Festival in Moseley Park. New York's Fun Lovin' Criminals headline tomorrow, soul queen Mavis Staples tops the bill on Saturday and The Earth Wind And Fire Experience, featuring original member Al McKay, rounds things off on Sunday.

Sax

Other acts include Syrian star Omar Souleyman, Dutch dance trio Kraak & Smaak, Cody ChestnuTT, Lack of Afro, 1960s rock veteran Ginger Baker with his Jazz Confusion, and sax symbol Courtney Pine.

On Saturday BBC radio DJ, Coronation Street and Red Dwarf star Craig Charles will have a guest DJ slot.

Moseley Park will be a venue again on August 29 to 31 for the Moseley Folk Festival. This year it embraces rock acts too with a line up that ranges from Richard Thompson and The Waterboys, to ex-Smith Johnny Marr, rising star Jimi Goodwin, and Sonic Youth's Thurston Moore. Also featured are local acts Dan Whitehouse and The Old Dance School.

For more information see mostlyjazz.co.uk or for the folk fest moseleyfolk.co.uk website.

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CHOICE

Amanda Mealing

Casualty (BBC1, 8.30pm)
The Beeb's flagship hospital drama is used to portraying people in desperate situations, but few go as far as one of tonight's patients. He's a drugs counsellor by trade who enlists the help of a former addict under his care to carry out a carjacking — all in a last-ditch attempt to get his hands on some cash. But why is he so willing to risk all in his bid for riches? The pieces start to fall together when he starts coughing up blood, and it seems that he's been keeping a dark secret from everyone, including his wife. Meanwhile, a leukaemia survivor seems to be struggling with motherhood. Could she be hurting her baby? Medical drama, starring George Rainsford, Richard Winsor, Chloe Howman and Amanda Mealing.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Live. **11.30** Paul Hollywood's Pies & Puds. (R) **12.00** Homes Under the Hammer. (R) **1.00** BBC News; Weather. **1.15** Bargain Hunt. **2.00** Live Athletics: Glasgow Grand Prix. Coverage of the Diamond League event. **5.20** Celebrity Mastermind. (R) **5.50** Pointless Celebrities. (R)

6.40 BBC News; Regional News; Weather.

7.00 A Question of Sport: Super Saturday. Olympic gold-medal-winning swimmer Rebecca Adlington, Strictly Come Dancing star Anton Du Beke, TV presenter Gethin Jones and BBC Breakfast's Louise Minchin take part.

7.40 The National Lottery: Break the Safe. Nick Knowles hosts the game show in which three pairs of contestants – West Midlands sisters-in-law, sign-language interpreters from Yorkshire and a Luton father and daughter – compete for the chance to play for the money in the safe, with the amount depending on how much they have earned in the previous rounds.

8.30 Casualty. A drugs counsellor enlists the help of a former addict to carry out a carjacking in his desperate bid for money – but when he ends up coughing up blood, it turns out there is something he has been keeping from his wife. Cal is negligent when dealing with the carjacking victim – something that doesn't go unnoticed by Connie – and a leukaemia survivor is suspected of hurting her baby, while Tess returns to the department with a new-found sense of direction in her life.

9.20 BBC News; Weather.

9.40 Film: Pirates of the Caribbean: The Curse of the Black Pearl. (2003) A buccaneer and a blacksmith commandeer a British ship and set sail in pursuit of a pirate captain who has kidnapped a colonial governor's daughter. However, their quarry and his crew are under a curse that turns them into living skeletons – and makes them impossible to kill. Swashbuckling fantasy adventure, starring Johnny Depp, Orlando Bloom and Keira Knightley; National Lottery Update.

11.50 Film: The Ruins. (2008) Horror, starring Jena Malone and Shawn Ashmore.

1.15 Weather for the Week Ahead. **1.20** BBC News.

BBC2

6.00 This Is BBC Two. **6.35 Film:** Blood on the Moon. (1948) **8.00** MOTD Kickabout. (R) **8.30** World Cup Films. **9.45** Coast. **10.05** The Living Planet. (R) **11.00** Fred Dibnah's Industrial Age. (R) **11.30** Great British Railway Journeys. (R) **12.00** Rick Stein's Spain. (R) **1.00** Live Golf: The Women's British Open. Coverage of the third day at Royal Birkdale Golf Club. **5.00** Escape to the Country. (R) **5.45** Flog It! Trade Secrets.

6.15 Film: Catch Me If You Can. (2002) The story of Frank Abagnale Jr, who found notoriety as a teenager conning and charming his way across America. Posing as a pilot, a doctor and a lawyer, Frank was able to fund an extravagant lifestyle while outwitting the FBI at every turn. Fact-based drama, starring Leonardo DiCaprio, Tom Hanks, Martin Sheen and James Brolin.

8.30 Dad's Army. The air-raid wardens have to share the church hall with the Home Guard after their HQ is bombed, but Hodge's men are terribly disruptive and soon cause mayhem. (R)

9.00 The Men Who Made Us Spend. New series. Jacques Peretti investigates the methods used to persuade people to buy consumer goods and confronts the men and women behind bestselling products and successful sales strategies. In the first edition, he examines how product lifespans hold the key to consumerism and explores the origins of planned obsolescence, revealing how a group of electrical manufacturers organised a light-bulb cartel in the 1920s. He asks a senior executive at a home furnishings store why his firm still encourages repeated discarding and purchasing, and talks to a former senior Apple employee about how the company's new focus on fashion keeps people buying even when technological innovation slows.

10.00 Film: The Shipping News. (2001) A small community helps a widower rebuild his family life when he and his daughter go to live with his estranged aunt. Drama, starring Kevin Spacey, Julianne Moore and Judi Dench.

11.45 Golf: Scottish Open. Hazel Irvine presents highlights from the third round at Royal Aberdeen, where America's Phil Mickelson entered as the defending champion.

12.45 Film: Black Sheep. (2006) **2.10** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Fort Boyard Ultimate Challenge. **6.25** Dino Dan. (R) **6.35** Dino Dan. (R) **6.50** Canimals. (R) **7.00** Canimals. (R) **7.05** Sooty. (R) **7.20** Digimon Fusion. (R) **7.45** Mr Bean: The Animated Series. (R) **8.00** Adventure Time. **8.25** ITV News. **8.30** Weekend. **9.25** The Hungry Sailors. (R) **10.25** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **11.20** ITV News; Weather. **11.30** Storage Hoarders. (R) **12.30** Dinner Date. (R) **1.30** Peter Andre's 60 Minute Makeover. (R) **2.30** The Nation's Favourite Motown Song. (R) **4.00** Tipping Point. (R) **5.00 Film:** Scooby-Doo. (2002) Comedy adventure, starring Sarah Michelle Gellar.

6.35 Regional Programme; Weather.

6.45 ITV News; Weather.

7.00 You've Been Framed! Surreal comedy from the mind of Harry Hill, inspired by viewers' home videos. Aled Jones auditions for Daybreak, while Chris Moyles and family have fun with a Taser. (R)

7.30 Tipping Point: Lucky Stars. Chat show host Jonathan Ross, champion boxer Carl Froch and Samantha Womack (EastEnders' Ronnie Mitchell) take turns on the token-pushing machine for charity. Ben Shephard presents.

8.30 FIFA World Cup Live 2014. Coverage of the third-place play-off (Kick-off 9.00pm), which is staged at the Estadio Nacional in Brasilia, Brazil. The two losing semi-finalists face each other to determine who finishes third and fourth, in a contest that will no doubt be overshadowed by the final, despite historically being one of the higher-scoring matches of each tournament. The corresponding fixture in 2010 was an entertaining affair, with Germany beating Uruguay 3-2 in a seesaw encounter that initially saw them go 1-0 up before the South Americans fought back to take a 2-1 lead early in the second half. Presented by Matt Smith, with commentary by Sam Matterface and Clarke Carlisle. In the event of extra-time and penalties, subsequent programmes are subject to change.

11.15 ITV News; Weather.

11.30 Film: Balls of Fury. (2007) The FBI recruits a washed-up former ping-pong champion to infiltrate an underground tournament run by a criminal mastermind. Comedy, starring Dan Fogler and Christopher Walken.

1.05 Jackpot247. **3.00** The Jeremy Kyle Show USA. (R) **3.40** ITV Nightscreen.

CHANNEL 4

6.05 The Hoobs. (R) **6.30** Trans World Sport. **7.30** FIM World Superbike Championship. **7.55** The Morning Line. **9.00** Weekend Kitchen. **10.00** Frasier. (R) **10.30** Frasier. (R) **11.00** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **11.25** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **11.55** The Simpsons. (R) **12.30** The Tomorrow People. **1.20** Channel 4 Racing. Live coverage from Newmarket, York and Ascot. **4.10** Come Dine with Me. (R) **4.40** Come Dine with Me. (R) **5.10** Come Dine with Me. (R) **5.40** Come Dine with Me. (R)

6.15 Come Dine with Me. Jilly Pollock hosts the fifth and final party in Liverpool, and hopes her black-tie event featuring ballroom dancing will ease tensions after the previous night's arguments. (R)

6.45 Channel 4 News.

7.05 The Restoration Man. George Clarke catches up with Simon Hooper and partner Victoria, who tried to convert a Grade I-listed medieval hall into a unique home in Cardiff. (R)

8.00 Grand Designs. Kevin McCloud meets artists Indi and Rebecca, who are planning to construct a modern, larch-clad home on the Isle of Skye, with a second hand-crafted building alongside to use as their studio, all on a tight budget of £150,000. They have been saving for years, but making it happen will mean taking on the savage weather, not to mention the sceptical locals – and as if that weren't enough, most of the work is being done by one man, local builder Donald. (R)

9.00 Film: Knight and Day. (2010) A woman has a chance encounter with a rogue secret agent, who has been framed as a traitor and is on the run from his own superiors. Realising she is in danger for knowing too much, he kidnaps her and drags her along on his desperate mission to clear his name. Comedy adventure, with Tom Cruise and Cameron Diaz.

11.15 The IT Crowd. Philip from the sixth floor asks Jen on a date – but Roy and Moss invite themselves along. Comedy, starring Katherine Parkinson, Chris O'Dowd and Richard Ayoade. (R)

11.50 The IT Crowd. Denholm's death spells trouble for Jen and Roy – until support appears in the form of a mysterious stranger. (R)

12.25 The IT Crowd. (R) **12.55 Film:** Rushmore. (1998) **2.30** Hollyoaks. (R) **4.40** Deal or No Deal. (R) **5.35** Kirstie's Vintage Gems. (R) **5.40** The Hoobs. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! **10.00** Access. **10.05** Meerkat Manor. (R) **10.30** The Dog Rescuers with Alan Davies. (R) **11.30** Big Brother: Eviction. (R) **12.55** NCIS. (R) **1.50** NCIS. (R) **2.45** NCIS. (R) **3.40 Film:** Pork Chop Hill. (1959) Korean War drama, starring Gregory Peck. **5.40 Film:** Fighter Attack. (1953) Second World War drama, starring Sterling Hayden.

7.00 Cricket on 5. England v India. Mark Nicholas presents highlights from the fourth day of the First Test of the five-match series from Trent Bridge in Nottingham. England were eventually bowled out for 544 in their second innings when the sides met here in 2011, leaving the tourists needing 478 runs to win. However, Tim Bresnan returned excellent figures of 5/48 as India were skittled out for just 158. Commentary and analysis by Geoffrey Boycott, Michael Vaughan and Simon Hughes.

7.55 5 News.

8.00 MH370: The Flight That Vanished. Documentary examining the theories and speculation surrounding the fate of Malaysia Airlines Flight 370, which was lost during its scheduled journey from Kuala Lumpur to Beijing Airport on March 8. (R)

9.00 Big Brother. Highlights of another 24 hours in the Big Brother house, including coverage of the latest eviction as seen from the point of view of the contestants, who share their diary-room thoughts on their recently departed friend – or enemy.

10.00 The Trial of Gillian Tayforth. Dramatic reconstruction based on transcripts and media coverage of the 1994 court case in which the former EastEnders star and her partner sued the Sun newspaper for libel.

11.00 Benefits Britain: Life on the Dole. The documentary examining the lives of unemployed people visits Hull, which has one of the highest unemployment rates and lowest average weekly wages in the UK. (R)

12.00 Big Brother's Bit on the Psych. **1.00** SuperCasino. **3.10** Skyscraper: London's Cheesegrater. (R) **4.00** House Doctor. (R) **4.25** Make It Big. (R) **4.50** The Funky Valley Show. (R) **5.00** Angels of Jarm. (R) **5.10** Roary the Racing Car. (R) **5.20** Angels of Jarm. (R) **5.30** The Funky Valley Show. (R) **5.40** Roary the Racing Car. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Three
7.00 Top Gear **8.00** John Newman & Katy B @ T **9.00** Pharrell Williams & Rudimental @ T **10.00** Paolo Nutini @ T **11.30** Family Guy **1.45** American Dad! **2.30** Pramface **4.00** Close

BBC Four
7.00 Lost Land of the Tiger **8.00** The Story of Science – Power, Proof and Passion **9.00** Inspector Montalbano **10.55** Imagine – Jimi Hendrix: Hear My Train a Comin' **12.25** Guitar Heroes at the BBC **1.25** Top of the Pops: 1979 **1.55** Lost Land of the Tiger **2.55** The Story of Science – Power, Proof and Passion **3.55** Close

ITV2
12.10 I Wanna Marry "Harry" **1.10** The Only Way Is Essex **2.40 Film:** Beethoven (1991) **4.25** 100% You've Been Framed! **5.25** You've Been Framed and Famous! **6.30 Film:** Pearl Harbor (2001) Romantic drama, starring Ben Affleck and Kate Beckinsale. **10.00 Film:** The Matrix Reloaded (2003) Sci-fi thriller sequel, starring Keanu Reeves, Carrie-Anne Moss, Laurence Fishburne and Hugo Weaving. **12.40** The Magaluf Weekender **1.40** Crazy Beaches **2.30** You've Been Framed! **2.50** Teleshopping **5.50** ITV2 Nightscreen

ITV3
12.45 Endeavour **1.00** Bomb Girls **1.50** Movies Now **2.00** ITV3 Nightscreen **2.30** Teleshopping

ITV4
11.00 The Cycle Show **12.00** Tour de France Highlights **1.00** Tour de France Live. Stage eight from Tomblaine to Gerardmer La Mauselaine. **5.00** Police, Camera, Action! **5.25** Highway Patrol **6.00** Goodwood: Cars of the Future **7.00** Tour de France Highlights **8.00** Hornblower **10.00 Film:** Hard to Kill (1990) **12.00** Alias Smith and Jones **1.00** Tour de France Highlights **2.00** Gareth Bale: Welsh Galactico **2.55** ITV4 Nightscreen **3.00** Teleshopping **3.30** The Store **5.30** Teleshopping

E4
11.00 Marvel's Agents of SHIELD **12.00** The Big Bang Theory **1.30** New Girl **2.00** Brooklyn Nine-Nine **2.30** The Big Bang Theory **8.00** The 100 **9.00 Film:** Coming to America (1988) **11.20** The Big Bang Theory **12.50** 2 Broke Girls **1.20** How I Met Your Mother **2.15** Rude Tube **3.10** The Ricky Gervais Show **4.05** Glee **4.45** Desperate Housewives

Film4
11.00 The Overlanders (1946) **1.00** Rio (2011) **3.00** Zulu (1964) **5.50** Australia (2008) **9.00** Die Hard 2 (1990) **11.20** The Others (2001) **1.25** Final Destination 3 (2006) **3.20** Close

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CHOICE

Anna Maxwell Martin

The Night Watch (BBC2, 9pm)

Based on the acclaimed novel by Tipping the Velvet author Sarah Waters, this one-off drama opens in 1947, when the main characters, along with the rest of the country, are trying to rebuild their lives, and then works backwards through the 1940s to see just what happened to them during the war years. We are introduced to Kay (Anna Maxwell Martin), who ceaselessly roams the streets as if haunted by some tragic loss. Meanwhile, Helen (Claire Foy) and Viv (Jodie Whittaker) run a marriage bureau but their own personal lives are less than perfect – Viv seems unable to break free from her married lover, and Helen is pursuing a tumultuous relationship with a woman named Julia (Anna Wilson-Jones).

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **9.00** The Andrew Marr Show. **10.00** Sunday Morning Live. **11.00** Sunday Politics. **12.15** Bargain Hunt. (R) **1.00** BBC News; Weather. **1.15** Alan Hansen: Player and Pundit. (R) **2.15** Homes Under the Hammer. (R) **3.15** Wanted Down Under. (R) **4.00** Escape to the Country. (R) **5.00** Songs of Praise. **5.35** BBC News; Regional News; Weather.

6.00 Countryfile. Matt Baker explores Whiteford Burrows sand dunes in Gower, south Wales, Adam Henson reveals the wonders of wool and cameraman Richard Taylor-Jones is on the lookout for fox cubs.

7.00 Match of the Day Live. Coverage of the final at the Estadio do Maracana in Rio de Janeiro (Kick-off 8.00pm), where the successors to 2010 champions Spain are crowned. This 20th staging of the tournament has been largely lauded as a great success, with a glut of goals, attacking football and some of the leading players in the world bringing their club form to the international stage. While several of the leading European nations made early exits, including Italy, England and the defending champions, the South American and CONCACAF sides demonstrated their ability, leaving few clues as to which team could find the consistency required to lift the trophy. A number of shock results added to the excitement and unpredictability of the tournament, but there have been relatively few surprises in the showpiece match over the years, with the last one being France's victory over Brazil in 1998, and before that, arguably Italy's triumph against West Germany in 1982 following their slow start to that campaign. A European success remains unlikely, especially as all four stagings of the World Cup in South America have been won by sides from that continent, with the last one being Argentina on home soil in 1978. In the event of extra-time and penalties, subsequent programmes are subject to change.

10.30 BBC News; Regional News.

10.55 Live at the Apollo. Greg Davies hosts another session of stand-up at Hammersmith Apollo in west London. (R)

11.25 Film: Man of the Year. (2006) Comedy, with Robin Williams and Christopher Walken.

1.15 Weather for the Week Ahead. **1.20** BBC News.

BBC2

6.00 This Is BBC Two. **6.20 Film:** Tender Comrade. (1943) **8.00** Monty Don's French Gardens. (R) **9.00** Gardeners' World. (R) **9.30** The Beechgrove Garden. **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. **11.30** Paul Hollywood's Pies & Puds. **12.00** Rick Stein's Spain. (R) **1.00** Live Golf: The Women's British Open. Coverage of the fourth day at Royal Birkdale Golf Club. **5.20** Natural World: The Bat Man of Mexico. (R)

6.20 Flog It! People are invited to try to make money by selling their antiques at auction. (R)

7.20 Film: Shall We Dance? (2004) A bored workaholic lawyer becomes fixated with a beautiful dance teacher and enrols in her class. When she flatly rejects his advances, he decides to concentrate on perfecting his footwork – but keeps the new hobby a secret, making his wife very suspicious about the amount of time he is spending away from home. Romantic comedy, starring Richard Gere.

9.00 The Night Watch. One-off drama adapted from the best-selling novel by Sarah Waters following the love affairs of four Londoners through three periods of the 1940s. Kay roams the streets, haunted by a traumatic personal loss, while Helen and Viv run a marriage bureau, helping people rebuild their shattered lives by finding love – but their own complicated relationships are less easy to solve. Meanwhile, Duncan's fragile existence is threatened when a face from his past reappears. Anna Maxwell Martin, Claire Foy, Jodie Whittaker and Harry Treadaway star. (R)

10.30 Mock the Week. Josh Widdicombe, Gary Delaney and Tiffany Stevenson are among the guests joining regular panellists Hugh Dennis and Andy Parsons on the topical comedy quiz. (R)

11.00 QI XL. Extended edition. Victoria Coren Mitchell, Sue Perkins and the Rev Richard Coles join Alan Davies as host Stephen Fry asks a range of unusual questions about knights and knaves. (R)

11.45 Golf: Scottish Open. Hazel Irvine presents action from the fourth and final round at Royal Aberdeen, where Phil Mickelson entered as the defending champion.

12.45 Sign Zone: Countryfile. (R) **1.45** Holby City. (R) **2.45** Match of the Day: FIFA World Cup Replay. **4.30** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Fort Boyard Ultimate Challenge. **6.25** Dino Dan. (R) **6.35** Dino Dan. (R) **6.50** Canimals. (R) **7.00** Canimals. (R) **7.05** Sooty. (R) **7.20** Digimon Fusion. (R) **7.45** Mr Bean: The Animated Series. (R) **8.00** Deadtime Stories. (R) **8.25** ITV News. **8.30** Weekend. **9.25** May the Best House Win. (R) **10.20** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **11.20** ITV News; Weather. **11.30** Love Your Garden. **12.25** Long Lost Family. (R) **1.30 Film:** Columbo: Strange Bedfellows. (1995) Crime drama, starring Peter Falk and Rod Steiger. **3.30** Midsomer Murders. (R) **5.30** Regional Programme ; Weather.**5.45** ITV News; Weather.

6.00 Catchphrase. Stephen Mulhern hosts the game show in which three contestants guess the familiar phrases hidden in animated clues, before one of them plays to win £50,000. (R)

7.00 FIFA World Cup Live 2014. Coverage of the final at the Estadio do Maracana in Rio de Janeiro (Kick-off 8.00pm), where the successors to 2010 champions Spain are crowned. The Spaniards needed extra time to overcome the Netherlands in a tempestuous affair four years ago in South Africa, with Andres Iniesta striking after John Heitinga had been sent off for the losing side. However, Spain were unable to successfully defend their title this time around, losing 5-1 to the Dutch in their opening contest, before a further defeat against Chile sealed their fate just two games into their tournament. Argentina and Brazil began their campaigns among the favourites and they will know history is on their side if either have qualified for this encounter, as a team from South America has prevailed every time the continent has hosted a World Cup. In the event of extra-time and penalties, subsequent programmes are subject to change.

10.30 ITV News; Weather.

10.45 The Greatest Footie Ads Ever. Paddy McGuinness presents this one-off programme guiding viewers through 30 years of incredible, bizarre, spectacular and much-loved football commercials. (R)

11.45 The Cube. Phillip Schofield hosts. (R)

12.40 The Store. **2.55** Motorsport UK. **3.45** ITV Nightscreen. **4.15** May the Best House Win. (R) **5.05** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R)

CHANNEL 4

6.05 Ironman 2014. **6.30** Ironman 2014. **7.00** Cholmondeley Pageant of Power. **7.30** How I Met Your Mother. (R) **7.55** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.25** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.55** Frasier. (R) **9.30** Sunday Brunch. **12.30** George Clarke's Amazing Spaces. (R) **1.30** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **2.00** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **2.25** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **2.50** The Simpsons. (R) **3.20** The Simpsons. (R) **3.45** Deal or No Deal. **4.50 Film:** St Trinian's. (2007) Comedy, starring Rupert Everett.

6.40 Channel 4 News.

7.00 Film: Titanic. (1997) A party of explorers studying the sunken remains of the famous liner meets an elderly woman who was a passenger on the ill-fated maiden voyage. She recounts how she boarded the ship while on the brink of being forced into marriage by her family, and was stopped from killing herself by a penniless artist. She fell in love with her saviour, but the disaster on the horizon meant their time together was doomed to be short. James Cameron's Oscar-winning romantic drama, starring Kate Winslet, Leonardo DiCaprio, Billy Zane, Kathy Bates and Bill Paxton. Edited for language and nudity.

10.45 Film: The Running Man. (1987) A convict takes part in a brutal TV game show in which he is hunted by a series of gadget-wielding killers. Sci-fi action adventure, with Arnold Schwarzenegger and Richard Dawson.

12.40 The Million Pound Drop. Davina McCall returns with the 13th series of the quiz, featuring themed editions and celebrity contestants. Tonight, Stephen and Chris from Gogglebox play for charity. (R) **1.35 Film:** A Prophet. (2009) A crook is sent to a French prison dominated by rival Corsican and Muslim gangs, where he forms his own crime syndicate. Crime drama, starring Tahar Rahim and Niels Arestrup. **4.05** Home Road Movies. (R) **4.20** River Cottage Veg Heroes. Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall cooks a stir fry at Bramble Farm in Bristol. He also prepares potato and carrot salad, as well as exotic tarts made using beetroot and samphire. (R) **4.50** Beat My Build. Two sets of property developers compete to make the most profit renovating flats. The first crew transforms a unit in London, while the second treats another on the south coast. (R) **5.45** Deal or No Deal. Players try to beat the banker and guess the contents of mystery boxes, and could double their winnings with box 23 – if they are brave enough to buy it with what they have won. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake!: Peppa Pig. **6.05** Roary the Racing Car. (R) **6.15** Abby's Flying Fairy School. (R) **6.25** Bubble Guppies. (R) **6.35** The Mr Men Show. (R) **6.50** Chloe's Closet. (R) **7.00** Roobarb and Custard Too. (R) **7.10** Bananas in Pyjamas. (R) **7.20** Olly the Little White Van. (R) **7.25** Make Way for Noddy. (R) **7.40** City of Friends. (R) **7.55** Little Princess. (R) **8.05** The Adventures of Bottle Top Bill and His Best Friend Corky. (R) **8.15** Angelina Ballerina. (R) **8.30** Milkshake! Show Songs. (R) **8.35** Bert and Ernie's Great Adventures. (R) **8.40** Rupert Bear. (R) **8.55** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **9.15** Jelly Jamm. (R) **9.30** LazyTown. (R) **10.00** Access. (R) **10.05** World's Scariest Near Misses. (R) **10.55** Big Brother. (R) **11.55** Police Interceptors. (R) **12.55 Film:** See No Evil, Hear No Evil. (1989) **2.45 Film:** Stand By Me. (1986) **4.20 Film:** Click. (2006)

6.30 Criminals: Caught on Camera. Journalist Nick Wallis joins police forces around the nation to discover how CCTV and technological advances are helping to bring criminals to justice. (R)

7.00 Cricket on 5. England v India. Mark Nicholas presents highlights of the fifth day of the First Test of the five-match series from Trent Bridge in Nottingham.

7.55 5 News Weekend.

8.00 The Boy They Call Fish. The story of a Vietnamese teenager who has a rare condition that gives him scaly, fish-like skin, and his unlikely friendship with the Essex grandmother devoted to helping him. (R)

9.00 Big Brother. Daily round-up of highlights, featuring the latest tasks, games, arguments, laughs, diary room visits and bedroom chit-chat. Narrated by Marcus Bentley.

10.00 Webcam Girls: At Your Service. Women who work in the online adult entertainment industry. (R)

10.50 Film: Step Brothers. (2008) Two 40-year-old men who have never left the family home are forced to share a room when their single parents marry each other. Comedy, starring Will Ferrell.

12.45 True Crimes: The First 72 Hours. **1.15** SuperCasino. **3.10** Police Interceptors. (R) **4.00** House Doctor. (R) **4.25** Make It Big. (R) **4.50** The Funky Valley Show. (R) **5.00** Angels of Jarm. (R) **5.10** Roary the Racing Car. (R) **5.20** Angels of Jarm. (R) **5.30** The Funky Valley Show. (R) **5.40** Roary the Racing Car. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Three

7.00 Don't Tell the Bride **8.00** Bastille & Sam Smith @ T **9.00** Tinie Tempah & Jake Bugg @ T **10.00** Arctic Monkeys & Example @ T **11.30** Family Guy **12.15** American Dad! **1.00** Russell Howard's Good News **2.00** Stacey Dooley in the USA: Homeless in Detroit **3.00** Slum Survivors **4.00** Close

BBC Four

7.00 Natural World **8.00** Ford's Dagenham Dream **9.00** A Century in Film: From Scotland with Love **10.15** The Sky at Night **10.45 Film:** Everlasting Moments (2008) **12.30** Britain's Most Dangerous Songs: Listen to the Banned **1.30** More Dangerous Songs: And the Banned Played On **2.30** Ford's Dagenham Dream **3.30** Decisive Weapons **4.00** Close

ITV2

1.00 America's Got Talent **3.40** You've Been Framed! **4.10 Film:** Beethoven's 2nd (1993) **6.00 Film:** Jurassic Park III (2001) **7.45 Film:** Miss Congeniality 2: Armed and Fabulous (2005) **10.00** The Only Way Is Essex **10.50 Film:** The Matrix Revolutions (2003) **1.20** TV OD **1.45** You've Been Framed and Famous! **2.35** Life's Funniest Moments **3.00** Teleshopping

ITV3

11.25 A Touch of Frost **1.30** Wycliffe **2.45 Film:** Carry On Follow That Camel (1967) **4.40** Inspector Morse **7.00** Endeavour **1.00** Wycliffe **1.55** William and Mary **2.45** ITV3 Nightscreen **3.15** Emmerdale

ITV4

12.00 Duck Dynasty **1.00** Tour de France Highlights **2.00** Tour de France Live. Stage nine from Gerardmer to Mulhouse. **5.00** Storage Wars **6.00** Goodwood Festival of Speed **7.00** Tour de France Highlights **8.00** Storage Wars **9.00 Film:** Doom (2005) **11.05 Film:** The Wicker Man (1973) **1.00** Tour de France Highlights **2.00** Richard Bacon's Beer and Pizza Club **2.30** Police, Camera, Action! **3.00** Teleshopping **3.30** The Store **5.30** Teleshopping

E4

12.30 How I Met Your Mother **6.00** The 100 **7.00** The Big Bang Theory **8.00 Film:** Hairspray (2007) **10.15** The Big Bang Theory **11.20** Rude Tube **12.25** The Mindy Project **12.50** How I Met Your Mother **1.25** Rules of Engagement **2.15** The Ricky Gervais Show **3.35** Hollyoaks

Film4

11.00 The Admirable Crichton (1957) **1.00** Planet of the Apes (1968) **3.15** Avatar (2009) **6.35** Star Trek (2009) **9.00** X-Men: The Last Stand (2006) **11.05** The Final Destination (2009) **12.40** Vanilla Sky (2001) **3.25** Close

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Film Choices

Monday
Assumed Killer, Channel 5, 3.15pm
A news reporter trying to prove a a series of recent murders were the work of a serial killer is involved in a car crash and loses her memory. She begins to suspect that her own husband may be the murderer, and tries to piece together the events of the crash that she has forgotten. Thriller, starring Barbie Castro. (2013)

Tuesday
Escape from Polygamy, Channel 5, 3.15pm
A widowed mother joins a religious cult and goes to live in their remote compound, where her teenage daughter falls in love with the son of the group's leader. When the preacher demands that the girl marry him, the two youngsters plan to escape together. Drama, starring Haley Lu Richardson, Jack Falahee and Mary McCormack. (2013)

Wednesday
North West Frontier, BBC2, 1.10pm
A British officer saves an Indian prince from an uprising and tries to escort him and the boy's nanny to safety on board a dilapidated train. However, his mission is jeopardised when it becomes clear there is a traitor on board, leading to a deadly game of cat and mouse. Action adventure, starring Lauren Bacall, Kenneth More, Herbert Lom and Wilfrid Hyde White. (1959)

American Pie, Wednesday, ITV, 10.40pm

American Pie, ITV, 10.40pm
Four teenage boys make a solemn pact to lose their virginity before the high-school prom, and though their antics cause them huge embarrassment and public humiliation, the friends also learn about love and affection in their relations with the opposite sex. Coming-of-age comedy, starring Jason Biggs, Shannon Elizabeth, Chris Klein, Alyson Hannigan, Mena Suvari, Seann William Scott and Eugene Levy. (1999)

Thursday
The Nightmare Nanny, Channel 5, 3.15pm
A woman reluctantly hires a live-in nanny to look after her three-year-old daughter so she can return to work, but fears the child is growing closer to her minder than her mother. Thriller, starring Ashley Scott and Mekenna Melvin. (2013)

Friday
What Happens in Vegas, Channel 4, 12.05am
Two strangers accidentally booked into the same hotel room in Las Vegas spend a night on the town together. After a wild and drunken time in the casinos, they wake up to find they are now a married couple, and later win $3million which they both have a claim to – leading to a battle of wits over who keeps the money. Romantic comedy, starring Cameron Diaz and Ashton Kutcher. (2008)

Pick of the Week

The new champions are finally crowned

Who's it between? Well, not the teams featuring in the World Cup final, but rather BBC v ITV. Both channels will be broadcasting the showpiece match, which takes place at the famous Estadio do Maracana in Rio de Janeiro and kicks off at 8pm, but which company will come out on top in the ratings?

The smart money is on the Beeb. After all, they have silver fox Gary Lineker at the helm, whose still boyish good looks, despite the fact he's in his fifties, will appeal to the non-football-loving ladies in the audience, while fans will simply enjoy his knowledge of the game.

The BBC also have some excellent pundits alongside him, and we're hoping that Danny Murphy rather than Mark Lawrenson gets the co-commentator's spot.

The former Liverpool and Fulham star has been a revelation in this position – he's as interesting as poor old Phil Neville was dull during his first go at it during England's opening tie against Italy.

Not that ITV are the poor relations. Adrian Chiles does a decent job as their anchorman, while the likes of Gordon Strachan, Patrick Viera and Lee Dixon have plenty to say for themselves.

Sadly, Fabio Cannavaro often looks like a rabbit caught in the headlights – he's charming, but perhaps needs a few more English lessons.

Also, it would be nice if his co-stars allowed him to get a word in edgeways every now and then.

The World Cup itself has been one of the best in recent memory. From the start, teams generally threw caution to the wind, opting to attack rather than sit back and defend, which led to some thrillingly open games.

Teams such as Chile, Costa Rica and Algeria surprised many by getting further than anyone (including probably themselves) thought possible, while the likes of Italy, holders Spain and, yes, England, fell by the wayside early.

Even the USA, a nation that for so long didn't seem to be able to get its head around the game they call soccer, finally appeared to embrace it, and the team only bowed out during the round of 16 after one of the most enthralling matches so far, which saw goalkeeper Tim Howard make a record-breaking 15 saves before Belgium beat them 2-1.

After watching so many great matches, we have high hopes for this year's final.

It surely can't be dirtier and more disappointing than the 2010 one anyway, when Spain scored in extra time to win 1-0 against a Netherlands team that was uncharacteristically dirty throughout the game.

Referee Howard Webb sent off one player and handed out 14 bookings that afternoon in Johannesburg.

Who will actually lift the famous trophy is a mystery – there have been too many upsets and surprises so far to tempt us into guessing. What we do know is that it won't be anybody from the British Isles. Maybe our time will come in Russia in 2018, eh?

Gary Lineker, Match of the Day Live, Sunday, BBC1, 7pm

Best of the Rest

Monday
Long Lost Family
ITV, 9pm
Davina McCall and Nicky Campbell are back with a new run of a series which has proved amazingly popular. Although each episode features different people, their stories are often similar and the outcome – a tearful reunion – is the upshot of the research team's hard work. So, make sure you have plenty of tissues handy as we meet 63-year-old Ann Munro from Hampshire, who desperately wants a chance to tell her son why she gave him away when she was 21, and to ask for his forgiveness. There's also a chance to find out how Louise Kendall, a 28-year-old nurse from Bradford, gets on when she tracks down the French father she's never met.

Utopia
Channel 4, 10pm
The first series, broadcast in 2012, was a massive success, so we're expecting big things from this follow-up. It takes us back to 1979 and introduces us to Philip Carvel, a scientific genius who meets Milner, boss of powerful shadowy organisation The Network, at a secret forum involving boffins from various walks of life. They get on like a house on fire, and she encourages him to create Janus, a way of sterilising 95 per cent of the world's people which, she claims, will solve the world's overpopulation problem. But as time goes by, Carvel questions the project, particularly how it will affect his own children, in particular his beloved daughter Jessica. Tom Burke, Rose Leslie, Ed Birch, Anca Androne and Kevin Trainor star.

Tuesday
Hive Alive
BBC2, 8pm
Part one of two. Naturalist and Springwatch presenter Chris Packham and journalist and beekeeping enthusiast Martha Kearney are joined by expert Professor Adam Hart to explore the remarkable secrets of the lives and habits of bees. Midsummer is a critical time for the insects as they must gather enough food for the winter, so a specially designed hive equipped with an array of cutting-edge technology is used in order to monitor them and find out how they do it.

Coast
BBC2, 9pm
Following their recent Australian version, now the Coast team are back for a fresh run. They will be exploring more dramatic areas, telling stories, investigating notable landmarks and exploring mysteries that have played an important role in the coastal regions' development. In this first episode, the Coast crew explores the English Channel. Nick Crane experiences the secret life of Mont St Michel, a rocky outcrop which attracts over a million tourists a year. Mark Horton reveals how French mapmakers accidentally gave birth to Britain's Ordnance Survey some two centuries ago. And a few weeks after the world remembered the fallen, the team discover a poignant memorial to those who lost their lives during the D-Day campaign.

Wednesday
The Hotel Inspector Returns
Channel 5, 9pm
Alex Polizzi returns to the White Hart in St Albans, Hertfordshire, a reputedly haunted 15th-century hotel run by husband-and-wife Ross and Jayne McBeath, who had taken the ghoulish inspiration to extremes with novelty plastic skeletons and a horror-themed menu. Alex suggested that the proprietors drop the ghost tours and concentrate on the rich history of the building and surrounding area. Two years on, will she find a successful business – or will it be dead and buried?

The Mimic
Channel 4, 10pm
Return of the comedy about a talented impressionist who's stuck in a rut. Since leaving his maintenance job for a big break on TV, things haven't quite gone to plan for Martin and he's having trouble finding work. As his son Steven decides to go travelling – unable to cope after the death of his mother – Martin hires Neil as his new agent. However, his first gig is not exactly what he had been hoping for – busking at a shopping centre. Terry Mynott stars.

The Hotel Inspector Returns, Wednesday, Channel 5, 9pm

Thursday
Talk to the Animals
BBC1, 8pm
Lucy Cooke concludes her global exploration into the world of animal 'speak', focusing on how they talk to friends and enemies and even what they say to their neighbours. The zoologist discovers the many uses of the spotted hyena's call, tricks some vervet monkeys into warning each other of danger and finds out that dolphins not only greet one another, they also have unique signatures.

Friday
The Village That's Falling Into the Sea
BBC1, 7.30pm
On December 5th last year, the Norfolk seaside resort of Hemsby was devastated by the worst storm surge the east coast had seen in 60 years. It resulted in three homes being swept into the sea and another four getting unthinkably damaged. However, this wasn't the first time the village had experienced such loss – their coastline is slowly being eroded at a cost of almost 70 properties over the past few decades. In this one-off programme, presenter David Whiteley meets the residents.

BBC Proms 2014
BBC2, 8pm
The 120th season of the classical music festival gets under way at London's Royal Albert Hall as Katie Derham introduces a performance of Elgar's biblical oratorio The Kingdom, a portrayal of the acts of the disciples after the ascension of Jesus. Andrew Davis conducts the BBC Symphony Orchestra and Chorus and the BBC National Chorus of Wales.

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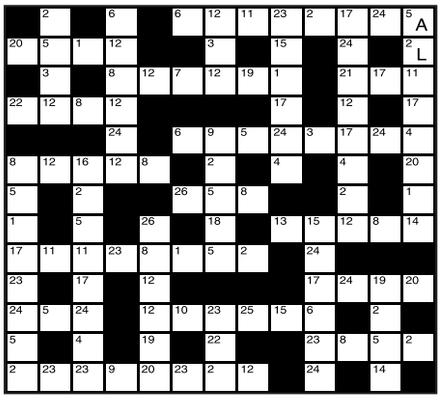
Brain Gym

No.281

Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



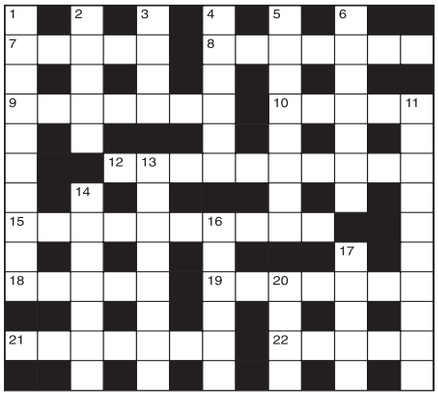
1	14
2 L	15
3	16
4	17
5 A	18
6	19
7	20
8	21
9	22
10	23
11	24
12	25
13	26

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
C	E	I	T	V	G	D	W	P	M	K	R	O
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
X	Z	H	L	J	A	N	B	U	Q	F	Y	S

Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.



Cryptic Clues:

Across

7. Sailor not quite finished on top (5)
8. She's not herself when working (7)
9. It's lace made for use in many under-garments (7)
10. Audibly permitted (5)
12. It may be a tiny girl's reason for not singing (10)
15. Toast? Well, we enjoy it! (4,6)
18. Part of Munich expressly designed for a statue (5)
19. A topic that's new about a pudding (7)
21. We prefer to be so (7)
22. Ocean-designed craft? Hardly (5)

Down

1. One keeps dry on it (5-5)
2. Not qualified to sum up (5)
3. A number set about a religious group (4)
4. Is such a tune easily picked up? (6)
5. Yet a crooked dealer may deal himself one! (8)
6. Answers which may be dispensed with (7)
11. Specified an inten-tion on the wrong date (10)
13. Fit as a lithe cat might be (8)
14. Firm interest (7)
16. He savagely attacked Roman civilisation (6)
17. Bandaged an injury? (5)
20. Quietly act on an agreement (4)

Quick Clues:

Across

7. Illustrious (5)
8. Raging (7)
9. Compel (7)
10. Remove faults (5)
12. Communicable (10)
15. Unlikely (10)
18. Decree (5)
19. Limit (7)
21. Quake (7)
22. Suffering (5)

Down

1. Not precise (10)
2. Astern (5)
3. Prophet (4)
4. Feeble (6)
5. Eastern (8)
6. Ennui (7)
11. Confused (10)
13. Mid-day (8)
14. Best (7)
16. Harmony (6)
17. Inflexible (5)
20. Remark (4)

Sudoku

		3	6			8		
				3			6	9
6		8	1		9			
	5	9			4			1
	2	4		1		6	9	
1						7	4	
		1	3		6	4		2
5	6			7				
					8	1		

Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >

8	1	3	2	7	4	9	6	5
9	5	2	3	6	8	7	1	4
7	6	4	1	9	5	8	2	3
1	4	9	8	5	6	3	7	2
6	7	8	9	3	2	5	4	1
3	2	5	4	1	7	6	8	9
2	9	1	7	8	3	4	5	6
5	3	7	6	4	1	2	9	8
4	8	6	5	2	9	1	3	7

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS: CRYPTIC - Across: 1 Escalator; 8 Ian; 9 Till the soil; 11 Crushed; 12 Icing; 13 Endear; 15 Agenda; 17 Rhyme; 18 Ascribe; 20 Ice-breakers; 22 Sol; 23 Suspected. Down: 2 Ski; 3 Latch; 4 Treads; 5 Roofing; 6 Pillion ride; 7 Integrate; 10 Laundry bill; 11 Cheerless; 14 Ageless; 16 Padres; 19 Chase; 21 Rye. QUICK - Across: 1 Practical; 8 Own; 9 Depredation; 11 Breathe; 12 Upper; 13 Animal; 15 Rescue; 17 Idiot; 18 Affront; 20 Assiduously; 22 Dot; 23 Stratagem. Down: 2 Roe; 3 Treat; 4 Craven; 5 Leisure; 6 Conspicuous; 7 Interment; 10 Precipitate; 11 Be-atitude; 14 Attests; 16 Wander; 19 Float; 21 Lie.

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A second cruise, this time along the Chobe River, almost guarantees sightings of elephant and hippo, then a visit to Cape Point passes the fishing harbour of Hout Bay. Continuing on, see the breathtakingly scenic Chapman's Peak Drive, full of rugged seascapes and cliffs to the Cape of Good Hope Nature Reserve.

At Cape Point itself see the confluence of the Indian and Atlantic Ocean then it's on to Boulders Beach to see the resident penguin colony.

On the Winelands tour, a visit to the small town of Franschoek is included home to South Africa's most prestigious university and where period buildings and historic streets reinforce the town's dignified atmosphere. A cellar tour and tasting at the award-winning Boschendal Wine Estate is included.

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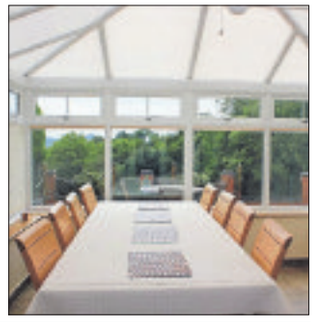
The property comprises a reception hall, sitting room, kitchen with oak units, utility room, dining room, downstairs cloakroom, three bedrooms and a house bathroom with a white suite including a traditional style bath and shower attachment. The property also benefits from gas fired central heating, double glazing, gated driveway, a garage and a landscaped rear garden.

For further information contact Andrew Grant on (01384) 370232 or visit www.andrew-grant.co.uk website.

Exceptional home backs onto a park

AN EXCEPTIONAL four-bedroomed detached family house in Welbeck Close, Halesowen, backs onto Leasowes conservation area and park. It is for sale through Scriven & Co at £385,000.

It has a canopy porch entrance, reception hall, fitted cloakroom,lounge with quality conservatory off, a dining room/family room, study, fitted kitchen/breakfast room, utility, landing, bedroom one with en suite shower room, three further bedrooms, bathroom, detached double garage and a good-sized rear garden. The dining room has a bay window, the study has wood laminate flooring and the spacious lounge has a feature fireplace with real flame gas fire and French doors to the conservatory. The property has a good-sized garden and additional land at the side. Contact Scriven & Co on 0121 4224011 or visit www.scriven.co.uk



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Six-bedroom home has period features

A SUBSTANTIAL six-bedroomed semi-detached property in Barnsley Road, Edgbaston, is for sale through Robert Oulsnam at £450,000.

In a conservation area and having period features including sash windows, it has an entrance hallway, ground floor WC, two reception rooms, breakfast kitchen, utility room, six bedrooms, two bathrooms, WC, kitchenette, workshop, garage, car port, front and rear gardens including rear patio, vegetable patch, garden pond and workshop. There is access to a separate plot of land along Barnsley Road. Contact Robert Oulsnam on 0121 4299986 or www.oulsnam.net

Improved family semi in Warley Woods area

IMPROVED four bedroomed semi-detached 30 Harborne Road, Warley Woods, is for sale through Taylors estate agent at £279,950.

Set back behind a driveway providing off road parking it has a porch, entrance hall with staircase off, a delightful lounge with a bay window and feature fireplace, a sitting room with sliding patio doors into the attractive garden room and a feature chimney breast with fireplace and wood effect flooring, a kitchen (which opens to garden room), with light wood units and contrasting working surfaces, an integral oven, four ring gas hob and cooker hood above, an island feature with circular sink, attractive slate effect flooring and a narrow garage/store off. Outside the rear garden has a patio, lawn, shrubs and shed.

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Rear-wheel drive thrills that won't break bank

By Iain Dooley

The performance-focused 2 Series injects some welcome sparkle into BMW's new compact coupe line-up.

What's new?: This M235i variant is the quick version of BMW's new 2 Series Coupe. Since a recent naming reshuffle, you're excused for thinking that you're looking at a 1 Series Coupe. Honestly, this is the 'new' 2 Series.

And for buyers seeking proper rear-wheel drive thrills without having to sell a kidney, the M235i is the closest most of us will get to a similar car sporting an 'M' badge. Yes, an M2 is on the way but, until then, you've got the M235i – likely a more rounded and sensible choice if you've only got space for one performance BMW in your life.

Looks and image: It's not difficult to tell the difference between this M235i and a cooking diesel variant. The former has clearly been at the box marked Shredded Wheat, what with its beefy bodykit, low and purposeful stance plus those equally businesslike chunky wheels and tyres.

It's a little less in-your-face in the car's cabin, but the sports seats, M car-like steering wheel and subtle graphics ensure you don't forget what this car is capable of. Crucially, for all the talk about genuine M cars, this M-lite version offers a good balance of comfort and sportiness in the real world.

Space and practicality: If there's one thing that the M235i does share with its slower siblings, it's the fac

t that it's a surprisingly practical car for a compact coupe. Granted, space for rear seat occupants is less than great, but it boasts a good size boot and there's ample storage space in the cabin for all the tat associated with leading an active life.

Embraced

Behind the wheel: From being a maker of rev-happy cars, BMW has fully embraced turbocharging with its latest range of performance motors.

The M235i is no different, and its 3.0-litre straight-six petrol engine benefits from turbocharging to the tune of 322bhp. That figure is plenty to get you to the horizon in a hurry, while the rasping from the exhaust ensures your journey is always entertaining.

Crucially the M235i is a doddle to drive at modest speeds, while pushing harder reveals a car eager to please. Only when you really lean on it, does it show its hand as a hooligan.

That trick BMW approved tuning bits can be bought to further enhance the experience should please the hardcore fans, while you'll also want to pay a little extra for the slick eight-speed auto gearbox as the six-speed manual 'box lacks polish.

Value for money: It's all relative of course, but in the world of premium hot hatches – or coupes – the M235i should be at the top of your shopping list. It possesses great road manners, is fun and engaging and is docile enough to double as regular transport to the shops and the office.

Base trim is a little, well, basic, but you'd be wise to spend your cash on the extra tuning bits instead of fancy paint or gadgets.

Who would buy one?: Anyone who's been raised on a diet of hot hatches will like the M235i. It's a mature evolution of the breed yet retains that all-important 'edge' to keep you interested away from the city limits.

Thankfully its low-key looks don't scream performance so you'll rarely turn heads – good news if you want to have some fun but not telegraph it to every man and his dog.

Plus it's rear-wheel rive, which is an important characteristic in a world full of million horsepower front-drive hot hatches.

This car summed up in a single word: thrilling.

If this car was a ... surgical instrument, it would be a scalpel – precise, sharp and to the point.

BMW M235i Coupe, £34,250

Dealership signs up Suzuki

Commercial feature

As a family run company founded by Derrick Grieveson 50 years ago, Halesowen Motor House has represented Vauxhall in Halesowen for many years.

Over the past 50 years trading the business has expanded enormously and the parent company's operations now extend to seven sites situated throughout the Midlands with the founder's son, Stuart Grieveson, in overall charge of the company today.

Now, in a new development for the dealership, Halesowen Motor House has been awarded the Suzuki franchise, one of the fastest-growing in the UK with sales registering an astonishingly high 11,000 cars last March alone.

General sales manager, Helen Madani says: "We're all very excited at the arrival of Suzuki to our dealership.

"During the first month of our Suzuki franchise we sold a magnificent 10 cars.

"The brand and its excellent products will compliment the new Vauxhalls and huge mix of competitively-priced used cars that we have offered our customers over the years."

Suzuki's cars are exactly right for today's motoring conditions. They're very economical, clean when it comes to CO2 emissions, inexpensive to own and very affordable to purchase. What's more, Suzuki's cars are stylish, practical and great to drive, too. Little wonder that there is so much demand for its vehicles!

Helen continues: "The Suzuki brand offers outstanding value and a terrific range of models.

"There hasn't been a Suzuki dealership within our area for quite a while and so we're really excited to be bringing back a brand that's quickly developing – it was the fastest growing car brand in the UK, growing by an incredible 33 per cent in 2013 to enjoy a record market share.

"With the recent arrival of the SX4 S-Cross the range is now even more extensive and refined, and besides great affordability, the range now has real design appeal."

Consumption

The excellent Alto city car, which starts at only £5,995, offers exceptionally-low combined fuel consumption of 64.2mpg. Its low emissions ensure that it's exempt from road tax.

Latest Suzuki models include the impressive SX4 S-Cross crossover and the mid range Suzuki Swift.

While, of course, Vauxhall dealer facilities continue, Halesowen Motor House now offers full dealer facilities for Suzuki including new and used sales, Motability, for which there are always NIL Advanced Payment deals on certain models, manufacturer parts and aftersales care.

Helen continues: "Throughout July anyone taking a test drive in a new Suzuki will receive a £10 M&S voucher.

"We are the only main dealer within the Birmingham area to represent Suzuki and we fully recognise the great opportunity that our franchise brings.

"We're looking forward to seeing customers past and present as they discover what Halesowen Motor House and Suzuki offers them."

"With the recent arrival of the SX4 S-Cross the range is now even more extensive and refined"

"Halesowen Motor House is a friendly, family-run business offering a warm welcome and outstanding customer care" Helen concludes.

"This has been the bedrock of our success and we are keen to bring our own special brand of customer service to our new Suzuki franchise."

Why not check out the Suzuki range at Halesowen Motor House, Dudley Road, Halesowen B63 3NH?

Remember that anyone taking a test drive* in a new Suzuki will be given a £10 voucher to spend at M&S! Call (0121) 503 0001. You can also visit the website www.halesowenmotorhouse.co.uk for further information.

*Test drives are subject to terms and conditions.

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Models shown: Alto 1.0 SZ4 available at £7,999 on the road, includes customer saving of £1,600 (metallic paint available at £399). Splash 1.2 SZ4 available at £9,899 on the road, includes customer saving of £1,980 (metallic paint available at £415). Swift 1.2 SZ4 5dr available at £11,415 on the road, includes customer saving of £2,284 (metallic paint available at £430). Alto, Splash and Swift range official fuel consumption figures in mpg (L/100km): Urban from 40.9 (6.9) to 55.4 (5.1), extra urban from 56.5 (5.0) to 78.5 (3.6), combined from 49.6 (5.7) to 67.3 (4.2). Official CO_2 emissions from 131 g/km to 109 g/km.

The above fuel consumption figures are based on an EU test for comparative purposes only and may not reflect real driving results. *VAT free offer on Alto, Splash and Swift range: Alto 1.0 SZ available from £5,999, including customer saving of £1,200 to Alto 1.0 SZ4 A/T available at £8,625 including customer saving of £1,724 equivalent to VAT amount of previous on the road price of £7,199 (SZ) and £10,349 (SZ4 A/T). Splash 1.0 SZ2 available at £7,999, including customer saving of £1,600 to Splash 1.2 SZ4 A/T available at £10,645 including a customer saving of £2,129 equivalent to VAT amount of previous on the road price of £9,599 (SZ2) and £12,774 (SZ4 A/T). Swift 1.2 SZ2 3dr available at £8,999, including a customer saving of £1,800 to Swift 1.2 SZ4 5dr 4x4 available at £13,699 including customer saving of £2,740 equivalent to VAT amount of previous on the road price of £10,799 (SZ2 3dr) and £16,439 (SZ4 5dr 4x4). VAT Free offer excludes Swift Sport. VAT equivalent reduction is not available on vehicle options or accessories. For full details contact your local participating Suzuki Dealer. Offer subject to availability for vehicles privately registered between 1st July 2014 to 30th September 2014 from participating Authorised Suzuki Dealers only. Offer cannot be used in conjunction with any other offers. All prices and specifications correct at time of going to print.

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Wraps off Bentley special

Luxury car maker Bentley has pulled the wraps off its new racecar-inspired Continental GT3-R.

Taking inspiration from the firm's new GT3-spec competition machine, the GT3-R is said to blend high performance with Bentley's trademark luxury approach to motoring.

The GT3-R will be a rare beast, too. Just 300 models will be made, conveniently timed to coincide with Bentley's recent success at the second round of the Blancpain Endurance Series at Silverstone – taking a win in the first UK race for the company in 84 years.

All 300 examples of the Continental GT3-R will be hand-built in Crewe and finished in Bentley's motorsport division.

Bentley engineers have developed a retuned version of the firm's race-proven, high performance 4.0-litre twin-turbo V8 for the GT3-R.

Developing 580 horsepower together with a 100kg weight reduction and shorter gearing, the Continental GT3-R is the fastest-accelerating Bentley with a zero to 60mph sprint time of 3.6 seconds.

Tweaks to the car's all-wheel drive system and electronic stability control are said to further boost the car's performance over the standard car.

There's no word on price, but you can expect the limited edition GT3-R to be a significant sum given its extra performance and added exclusivity.

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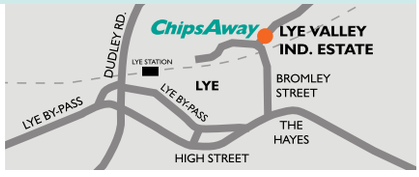

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DUDLEY & TIVIDALE 1-bed refurb flats, great locations, £375pcm DSS ok with dep. 07957 140824.

DUDLEY, Gornal Wood. Recently refurbished 2 bed partly furnished flat, £475pcm. 07852 225618.

LOCK UP garage to let £11pw. Please Telephone 01902 883037.

LODGER REQUIRED Dudley area. Large nice decorated room. Parking. £50p/w. 07851 608515.

NETHERTON AREA two bed house, DHSS welcome, deposit required. Call 07780 704435.

ROOMS, Brierley Hill, great decor and rate, from £70pw including bills. 07932 085127.

THREE BEDROOM house ,Park Village, Wolverhampton. 01902 826666. 07791 033895.

THREE BEDROOM house, Willenhall area, newly decorated and carpeted, £520 pcm. 07704 026237.

TWO BED FLAT Lower Penn, Merryhill area, desirable location, close to shops/ countryside, £425pcm. 01902 445576.

WEDNESFIELD, room to let, £60pw. Deposit required. 07814 797642 or 07854 080952.

houses for sale

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Extremely well presented, double fronted 3 bed semi detached, modernised, quiet cul-de-sac near Bantock Park, full DG, GCH, attractive rear 70ft garden, downstairs WC, double aspect lounge, dining room, large kitchen, Family bathroom, large detached garage, to include fixtures and fittings, No Upward Chain. EPC rated D.
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properties wanted

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overseas property

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7 Jobs

courses

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part time - general

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8 Motoring

cars over £1500

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£14,450 ono.
Telephone 01630 639523 or 07792 879456.

PRESTIGE

MINI COOPER 51 reg, four months MoT, 144,000 miles, racing green, taxed, good condition, £2,000 ono. 07866 926448.

PEUGEOT 207 1.4 petrol, 5 door hatchback, black, 27,000 miles, full MoT, excellent condition, £1,995. 07932 963381.

PEUGEOT 307 diesel, HDi, 2004, 73K, 5dr, silver, MoT, tax, FSH, 2 owners, good condition, £1,550. 07838 897643.

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full time - general

MNA Media

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Midland News Association
Queen Street
Wolverhampton WV1 1ES

Or by e-mail to:
personnel@expressandstar.co.uk

IMMACULATE

PEUGEOT 206 SPORTIAM
blue metallic, 2011.
61 plate. 12 months tax.
29,710 miles from new.
Bereavement forces reluctant sale.
£7,995.
01384 571170.

IMMACULATE

PEUGEOT 407 SW SE AUTO
05 Reg., only 59,000 miles on clock, immaculate inside and out, fsh, tax and MoT, new brakes and belt.
£1,750. o.n.o.
07734 806068.

SEAT IBIZA Sports Rider, 08 plate, full MoT, low mileage, genuine reason for sale, £2,750 o.n.o. 07539 834064.

SELLING? STILL NOT SOLD? We will buy and collect within 24 hours. Crown Motors 079035 49849 T.

TOYOTA MR2 Sports, 2002, tax Oct, new MoT, silver, red interior, alloys, used daily with hood down, £1,695. 01384 873411 or 07711 688220.

VAUXHALL ASTRA automatic, 03, 1.6 club, 75k miles, SH, new MoT and taxed till end Feb '15, excellent condition, £1,650. 07577 245359.

EXCELLENT CONDITION

VAUXHALL VECTRA
2005, 70,000 miles, silver, abs, electric windows, air bag, air con, fsh, alarm, long MoT, diesel, tax.
£2,750 ono.
07748 836325.

VAUXHALL ZAFIRA 1.816V
2006, 75k miles, black, electric windows, air bag, fsh, long MoT, central locking, one owner, pas, tax, Alloys,
£3,450 ono
07722 554280

VOLKSWAGEN GOLF 1.6
TDI (105) S, 5dr, 10 reg, 74000 miles, metallic grey, fsh, ac, alloys, electric windows, MOT, tax (only £30 pa).
Excellent condition
£7,700
01584 823455

VW SE GOLF
2003, 90,000 miles, silver, electric windows, air bag, air con, alarm, long MoT, auto, central locking, one owner, pas, diesel, tax.
£2,750 ono.
01384 872648.

cars under £1500

BMW 318i SE Petrol, Sept 03, gold, leather seats, alloys, FSH, 8 mnths tax, 3 mnths MoT £1,100 ono. 01902 712525.

ADVERTISERS ARE REMINDED
that the Business Advertisements (Disclosure) Order of 1977 requires that advertisements must clearly differentiate between Private and Trade.

CHRYSLER NEON
2001, 89,000 miles, blue, leather interior, auto, a few scratches and small dent on bonnet, tax until end of July and MoT to January 20, 2015.
£395 ono.
07930 877666.

FORD FIESTA Finesse, 1.3 petrol, Zetec, red, 5-dr, Cat D, 89k, full MoT, 6 months tax, good condition, £1,195 ono. 01746 862982.

FORD FOCUS LX 1600cc petrol, 2002 reg, 5 door, alloys, MoT June 2015, tax end Nov. 111,500 miles. £725. ono. 07946 307086.

FORD FUSION 2 03 plate, 1400 cc, recent cam belt, gold metallic colour, MoT 04/'15, tax 09/'14, any trial, £1,200 ono. 01384 864058.

FORD KA 1.3 Collection, 52 reg, silver, 1 lady owner, low mileage, FSH, £1,350. 07961 589264. T

FORD KA 1300 Silver colour coded, 73K, clean car, 2002, MoT March, tax September. £750 ono. 01902 408585 / 07593 552404.

FORD KA 52 Reg., black, MoT, tax, new exhaust/tyres and brakes, 65,000 miles, good condition, £795. 07813 932880. 01902 788829.

FORD MONDEO, 2004, 104k miles, blue, electric windows, air con, MoT, cruise control, pas, stereo, CD. £650. 01384 351206.

FORD MONDEO GHIA X AUTO
2.0TDCi, 2002/52 reg, tax October, MoT May, low mileage, service history, cruise control, air con, leather etc,
£1,295.
01902 338845.

FORD MONDEO ZETEC 5dr, 2.0 diesel, 05, silver, FSH, good runner, no tax / MoT £600 ono. 01902 712525

MAZDA EUNOS ROADSTER
1994, 1.8 auto, 76,000 miles, new brake disc and pads, plus suspension coil springs, paintwork needs slight attention.
£800 ono.
07923 108773.

MERCEDES C180 Esprit, 2000 Reg., 81k miles, MoT Feb 2015, tax April 2015, fsh, very good condition, £995. 01562 639227.

NISSAN MICRA 1 litre, 2001 reg, 7months MoT, 2 months tax, 64k, dark green, good condition, £675. 07939 511813.

PEUGEOT 106 51 reg, very good condition, 6 months tax and MoT, British racing green. £775 ono. 07528 272709.

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PEUGEOT 206 1.4LX black, EW, CLR, 51 plate, 9 months MoT, £500.07855 801779/01562 850951

PEUGEOT 206 1600 Quicksilver, tax/MoT, excellent inside and out, £650 no offers. 01902 333151.

RENAULT MEGANE 1.9DCi, diesel, 2003, 4-dr, long MoT and tax, metallic, alloys, ecomincal, etc, £550. 07519 630474.

RENAULT SCENIC Expression, 2005, 1.6cc, 16v, FSH, lady owner from new, fully loaded, MoT, bargain £1,150. 07445 709081.

ROVER 75 2001, 1800, 43,500 miles, cream leather interior, full year MoT, one owner £900. 01902 850367.

ROVER 75 2001 reg, MoT end of March, tax end of October this year, £750. 01384 350922 or 07428 064828.

SELLING? STILL NOT SOLD? We will buy and collect within 24 hours. Crown Motors 079035 49849 T.

SKODA FABIA Classic Estate green, 65,000 miles, Y reg, MoT Sept 14, tax April 15, £1,500 ono. 07462 904941.

TOYOTA COROLLA 2001, 5dr, hatchback, silver, very good condition, taxed, MoT. £850. 01902 682471.

VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.4LS, 2000, 126,000 miles, no MoT or tax, spares or repair, £300 o.n.o. 07866 645979.

VAUXHALL CORSA 53 reg, black, full MoT, 16inch alloys, pas, e/w, a/c, 5 door, 1.4. £1,175 ono. 07754 557861.

VAUXHALL CORSA CLUB 1.2
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660cc, 2006, 1821 miles, mint, the following also as new LEWIS motor cycle suite, black / grey, **£75.**
Storma boots, size 8, **£25.**
Swift leather gloves **£20.**
Paddock stand, rear, **£20.**
Plus extras.
Price for bike £3100
0121 559 1118.

HONDA 90CC Stepthrough, £550. Also 2 Puch, 50cc. Offers. 07791 864130.

HONDA CBR600 T reg, tax, MoT, recent service, low mileage, very good condition, mature owner, £1,700 ono. 07943 120733.

HONDA CX 500C 1981, US Import, 30,000 miles, very good condition, £1,700 ono. Please call 01562 741440. 07580 237627.

KAWASAKI ER500 Y reg, 12 months MoT, only done 16,000 miles, gold, must be seen, £995.07527 727224.

SINNIS MATRIX 125 SCOOTER, 2008, only 2,500 miles, £300 to include cover, etc. Disability forces sale. 07766 545325.

SUZUKI ADDRESS 125CC Step through, 2009, very good condition, very eonmical, 6,500 miles, black and silver, large topbox. £800 ono. 01562 863467 Kidderminster.

SUZUKI GSX 750F
1991, 36k miles, taxed, MoT, top box, Spada XXL jacket included,
£1350.
Would perfer swap for Naked upright bike.
07754 121452.

TRIUMPH BONNEVILLE SE 865 cc, 2011, phantom black, taxed, 2,173 dry miles, £4,750 ono. Please call 01384 877423.

TRIUMPH SPRINT RS, 955 cc, t & t, new tyres, 2000, service holders handbook, 2 keys, 41k, excellent cond, £1,500 ono. 01384 250253.

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9 Local Information

public & legal notices

LEGAL / PUBLIC NOTICES
For convenience you may fax any advertising requirements to
Marie Hogg on 01902 713146
or email marie.hogg@expressandstar.co.uk
(remember to include a name/contact number for confirmation of receipt)

10 Personals

personal

GENTLEMAN, LATE 50'S
Seeking a lady between 40-55 for a long term relationship.
I'm a very kind and trustworthy person, I live on my own and am self employed, I'm very outgoing, I enjoy walking, going out for meals and going on holiday. It would be nice to have someone to share these things with.
Genuine replies only please.
If possible a recent photo would be appreciated.
Write Box No. P19311 (SS), Shropshire Newspapers Ltd, Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV11ES

GIRL 18
Is seeking similar age girls for Friendship and Nights Out in Dudley and surrounding areas.
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general

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LOOK

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LOOK

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LOOK

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Regarding his Brother C. Lansdell.
Would you please contact Ian Bradford on 01233 733414. URGENTLY

LOOK

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Basic compentcy would be an advantage, for mature married lady, height 5ft3, NS, GSOH, own transport for details contact
Box Number P19323 , Express and Star, Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

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Express & Star

Crashes dog rally contest for Sykes

STOURBRIDGE'S Richard Sykes had a disappointing end to his Scottish rally last weekend when he crashed out of the event while comfortably in the lead.

The event, round three of the British Rally Championship (BRC) Challenge, commenced on Friday evening with a very popular spectator stage near Dumfries.

Sykes and co-driver Emma Morrison were the quickest of the BRC Challenge crews by 1.6 seconds in their Bathams Brewery and G I Sykes-supported Citroën C2 R200.

Day two started with stages in Twiglees and Castle O'er. Sykes continued to set the pace, extending his lead to 5.8 seconds over Ross Hunter, although the stages were not without incident.

"The Friday stage went very well and it was great to be leading," said Sykes. "Day two got off to a fairly dramatic start, we hit a big hidden rock in Twiglees on the inside of a corner.

After repairs Sykes was ready for the longest section, four stages totalling 30 miles including a 14 mile test in Ae forest.

After three stages Sykes had a lead of 31 seconds but it all went wrong with another crash.

Club gets stuck into half marathon

Running

THIS weekend saw members of Stourbridge Running Club (SRC) take part in the ever popular Birmingham & Black Country half marathon.

Starting in Wolverhampton and going along the canal to Birmingham the race saw two thousand runners taking part. SRChad three runners – Neil Whitehouse (504) in 2.36, Jane Mott (536) 2.50 and Wendy Bourne (537) 2.50.

SRC will also hosting its first Beer Mile Race.

The club will be using the historic cinder athletic track which lies under the cricket and football pitches and gives the War memorial Athletics ground back one of its original purposes – for a couple of evenings at least.

Club Treasurer David Sheppard said: "The beer mile is an extra fund raising event to raise as much as possible towards the new fitted carpet required in the cricket club bar.

"Competitors are welcome to try the old traditional 440 yard track and four laps will be the imperial mile. Competitors will have a 10 yard drinking zone in which to consume 12 fluid ounces of finest Enville Ale, for every lap. The world record may not be broken at 4mins 57 secs but we are sure to have a lot of fun trying".

The event is strictly limited to 60 places over two evenings with a choice of Wednesday August 20 or August 27 both evenings the time trial event will start at 6.45 pm.

Entry to the Beer Mile Rug Chunder Run, to give its official name, is £10 and includes the four glasses of Enville ale. Entry is open to all over 18 not just club members but it's strictly first come first served. Email dave.sheppard46@blueyonder.co.uk if you would like to enter or phone 07711 682342 or get an entry form on Stourbridge running club's website. Forms are also available in the cricket club bar.

Runners should not there will be no entry on the night as the event hopes to be full.

The running club normally runs distance events and of course it has the Stourbridge Stumble 10K race also on Saturday August 9 from Mary Stevens park which is a much loved local race.

Entry is via the website also.

Batting lets side down in contest

Sutton C-field 2nd XI 169
Stourbridge 2nd XI 89
Sutton Coldfield win

STOURBRIDGE Seconds' temporary skipper Ryan Willetttes who stepped in for Mikesh Jivan-Patel on duty with the first team fielded first.

His team restricted the opposition to 169 off 46 overs. Batting let Stour down as they were skittled out in 27 overs. Under 13 year old County star Zain Ul Hassan top scored with 22.

Hallow 1st XI 75
Stourbridge 3rd XI 77
Stourbridge win

Skipper Dave Colesby was wise enough to put Hallow in on what appeared to be a tricky track.

He was proved right bowling out the opposition in just 22 overs. His opening bowling pair Mohsin Hassan and youngster Liam Colesby finished the job taking five wickets a piece.

Scott Hodgetts 's 30 off 37 balls saved the day for Hallow. Stour made heavy weather of getting to the low target eventually reached it in the 41st over. Shaheel Khawar's 13 was enough for the win.

Stourbridge 4th XI 143-4
Hallow 2nd XI 142- 6
Stourbridge win

Wilson is not worth £3m to Wolves squad

KENNY JACKETT has hinted thatWolves withdrew from the race to sign Callum Wilson because they didn't think he was worth his £3m price tag.

The 22-year-old striker was understood to be their No.1 target before he opted to join Bournemouth from Coventry for £3m at the weekend.

Football

"If a player is there right now, or at any time, and we can get them at the right price, we'll do it," said Jackett.

Asked specifically about Wilson, the head coach said: "I'm not going to talk about other teams' players, and it's best to talk about our targets when we land them.

"But do we look to strengthen and have a scouting department that works all of the time? Yes we have.

"They have to know the market and have to make sure there's value for money on every single player.

"We don't want to miss anyone but we're not going to sign every player.

"We're very aware of the players being talked about; we were in League One last season and we got to know that league very well.

"If there are any players from there that can take us forward then fine."

Wolves have so far added two summer signings, out-of-contract pair Tommy Rowe and Rajiv Van La Parra.

But Jackett maintains fans shouldn't worry about a lack of fresh faces as it's early in the transfer window and as he rates the current squad so highly.

"I don't think people should be concerned," said the boss. "The group is very good and has started pre-season well and given myself a lot of optimism for the season.

"I don't want to be making any predictions or singing from the rooftops, but based on the last two weeks, I see a fit and hungry group looking forward to the challenge.

"It's an exciting time.

"If you're looking at a squad of 22 doing 11-a-side, it's a settled group where they know their jobs and are looking forward to what lies ahead," the Wolves boss said.

Jackett added: "It's not a situation where there's a time when we have to sign a player.

"That's not to say the group is struggling or we have a lack of quality or attitude."

Jackett maintains the transfer market hasn't really got going yet but the club will be keeping an eye on events.

"It's been very quiet so far," he added.

"Apart from isolated clubs - Rotherham have signed eight I think - it's been quiet."

Jordanne is new Wimbledon champion

Jordanne Whiley, left, and Yui Kamiji celebrate winning the ladies' wheelchair doubles title at Wimbledon

THE Black Country can boast it's very own Wimbledon champion thanks to Jordanne Whiley.

The talented 22-year-old from Halesowen took the ladies' wheelchair doubles title with partner Yui Kamiji of Japan.

The pair beat Dutch duo Jiske Griffioen and Aniek van Koot – the two-time defending champions – to scoop the title and shared the prize of £12,000.

Whiley and Kamiji, the number one seeds, avenged their loss in the 2013 final with a 2-6, 6-2, 7-5 victory.

Jordanne was cheered on by her parents Keith and Julie and boyfriend Marc. "I was really nervous and disappointed the first set didn't go our way," said Miss Whiley, now of Uxbridge.

"I put a towel over my head, thought that I will only get one shot at a Wimbledon final and that was the turning point." When Kamiji and Whiley made it 6-5 in the third set, Whiley thought she might be sick on the court. She said: "I said to Yui I thought I was going to vomit because I felt excited, nervous and was so scared. ."

Whiley was born with brittle bone disease, the same condition as her father Keith who was a bronze medallist at the 1984 Paralympics. She has broken her legs 26 times.

Swimmers face tough opposition

Nuneaton Junior League Round 3

JUNIOR swimmers from Halesowen made the trip to Leamington Spa for the final round of the first division.

The draw meant the team faced strong opposition with all but one of the other teams placed higher in the League after the first two rounds.

All the swimmers put in battling performances but were unable to gain ground on the other teams and finished the gala in fifth spot on the night.

The result sees Halesowen junior swimmers secure their first division status into 2015. Star of the show was Kate Morrice with double individual wins.

Battle starts to keep the Brummies

PASSIONATE Birmingham speedway supporters have set up a fighting fund to try and keep the club going.

With the future of the Perry Barr Brummies looking bleak, supporters desperate to keep their club on track have already raised over £5,000 .

Whilst progress so far has been superb, they are appealing for donations to keep coming as they look to enable speedway to continue in the city.

Contributions can be made by PayPal, bank transfer or cheque, with all monies returned or passed on to the Speedway Riders' Benevolent Fund should the club fold. More details can be found on www.brummie-speedway.net.

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Hadley signs for another season

BEN HADLEY has agreed to another season with Tipton Town under the new management team much to the delight of the club.

Head Coach Nathan Lamey said: "Ben has been spot on the last week.

"He obviously had options, but we were really keen to demonstrate our credentials and ability to Ben.

"We had a good chat with him after Thursday's session and Friday morning he sent us a message that he wanted to be on board.

"Only three weeks ago we had the task of a complete new team with no budget and competing against teams in our league and above with a budget. The personnel we have are nothing short of fantastic and their desire to succeed is so refreshing to see".

Hadley added: "The team made me feel so welcome and the philosophy of the management team is something I want to be part of.

"As soon as I arrived I was made to feel an important part of the plans and squad.

"The lads are class, very supportive and the desire to be successful is something I have not witnessed before."

Conditioning coach Carey-Bertram has been hard at work over the past week to get the players ready.

Glover itching for showdown

TIPTON'S Lee Glover 'can't wait' for Friday's showdown with Gloucester's Andy Harris for the British Masters Super Featherweight Title at Walsall Town Hall.

The 'Tipton Slasher' is ready to make up for lost time and avenge his Majority Decision loss to Jon Kays for the English Title when he appears he tops the bill of EJKO Promotions' 'The Heat Is On'.

Glover has revealed that he is using that paper thin English Title defeat as inspiration as he looks to push on and fulfil his potential.

"It still plays on my mind a bit but I'm using that as motivation to push on," Glover said. "I took the English Champion all the way and only lost a majority decision away from home against the Champion."

The show will live on BBC WM's DAB Digital Service and at www.bbc.co.uk/wm.

Glassboys cut price of friendlies tickets

Football

STOURBRIDGE FC are cutting the admission prices for their two upcoming home pre-season friendlies.

The games are against Conference Premier neighbours Kidderminster Harriers on Tuesday July 15 and Conference North outfit Solihull Moors on Tuesday July 29, both7.45pm kickoffs. Entrance prices will be adults £5, concessions £3, children 12-16 £2, while children aged 11 and under get in free when accompanied by a paying adult.

Supporters will have the opportunity to buy or renew their season tickets and memberships at these matches too.

Entrance arrangements to the War Memorial Athletic Ground remain the same as last season, with all paying fans asked to enter through the turnstiles behind the Church End goal.

The Glassboys open their pre-season programme with a visit to Bewdley Town this Saturday, 3 pm kick-off.

The draws were made for the early rounds of the FA competitions last week and the Glassboys will be hitting the road in all three competitions they have entered. In the FA Cup, Gary Hackett's men enter on Saturday September 13 and will be away to either Bolehall Swifts, Dudley Town or Market Drayton Town in the First Qualifying Round.

Bolehall of the newly formed Midlands League Division 1 will take on Dudley in the Extra Preliminary Round on August 16, with the winners then facing Shropshire outfit Market Drayton of the Evo-stik League Division 1 South a fortnight later.

Meanwhile, in the FA Trophy 1st Qualifying Round, Stourbridge have been drawn away to Carlton Town, who are members of the Evo-Stik League Division 1 South – one level below the Glassboys.

The Nottinghamshire club finished 10th in that Division last season.

Carlton have been given a bye through the Preliminary Round and the game is scheduled to be played on Saturday November 1.

Stourbridge have notched up a hat-trick of away ties in the FA Youth Cup after being drawn to play away at Solihull Moors in the Preliminary Round. That tie is scheduled to be played during the week commencing Monday September 8.

LOSS PUSHES STOUR DOWN THE DIVISION

Stourbridge 1st XI 198 Tamworth 1st XI 202-4
Tamworth win

STOURBRIDGE 1st XI suffered another blow to push them down two places to sixth position in Division Two of the Birmingham and District Premier league with 111 points.

Leamington Spa lead the Division at the half way stage of the season on 165 points.

Cricket

The blow this time was not from the weather but a strong Tamworth first team striking a convincing victory that left Stour in a dire need of points to keep them away from the drop zone.

In perfect conditions for cricket Tamworth skipper Mike Talbot won the toss and put Stour in on a dry track despite the overnight rain.

Stour won the first round, opening pair Alex Bingham and Steve Game putting on 72 for the first wicket.

Convinced

Against the run of play Bingham was the first to go having reached 35 caught controversially low down given out by officials neither the batsman nor the fielder fully convinced either way. The fuming Bingham was the fourth scalp of James Gray's four wicket haul of the top order.

That incident was followed by two quick successes for the opposition. Game was out for 28 a soft dismissal. Then Stour's skipper Richard Bradley failed to score driving at a harmless ball off medium pacer Gray. From 70 for no wicket Stour had fallen to 77-3 off 22 overs

Much needed recovery came from the partnership of Audy Alexander and Matt Bradley they took the score to 119.

It was Alexander who failed to capitalise on his start caught behind for 31 off Gray whose spell destroyed the top order.

Stour's middle order and the tail fought on to pose a challenging but not a safe total. Matt Bradley, 36, fell LBW to Rob Neild and an enterprising knock from Jitesh Jivan – Patel, 40, used up the overs.

Patel's innings eventually came to an end with a run out during the end of innings but not before he had posted a straight six off the spinner Mike Talbot.

Gray had bagged 4-46 off 13 overs and Nield ended with four wickets as well giving away just 39 off 11 overs.

An awful start by Tamworth made the Stour total appear unreachable losing the wickets of opener Mike Talbot, 4, off the third delivery from Ikram Mussadaq. That was the end of the winning rounds for Stour.

Athletes cut a Dash at stadium meeting

The victorious 4 x 100 under 17 team. From left Ladi Abudu, Ben Tuka-Noka, Jamal Chambers and Ryan Lowe

AFTER all the delays with the Dell repair work, Dudley & Stourbridge Harriers AC, finally held a meeting at the stadium, with the Division 3 Heart of England League meeting at the weekend.

Dash athlete responded in style, winning several events with some fine performances. Ben Tuka-Noka led the way taking the under-17 sprint double of 100 and 200m in fast times of 11.2 secs and 23 secs respectively. Ben had good support as team mates Ladi Abudu took the B 100 in 11.7 and Jamal Chambers the B 200 in 23.4 secs. They later teamed up with Ryan Lowe, who won the 400 with 56.4 secs, to easily win the 4x100 under-17 relay in 46.2sec, just outside the club record.

Other sprint firsts where the girls under-15 100 Kate Bishop and the 300m as Zara Millward ran 44.4 secs.

Not to be outdone Elliott Jones led from start to finish to take the under-15 boys 1,500m in 4m 34s. Under-17 James Kelly won both the shot with 8.75m and discus with 22.78m.

Emily Horne was first in the under-17 long jump with 5.15m with Rhianna Hinds taking the B event. To close the meeting Dash won three of the four relays. The following day Ben was in action again, as the senior team travelled to Burton for a Midland League meeting.

Tipton's fixtures for Cups

TIPTON Town FC now know their opponents in both the FA Cup and FA Vase preliminary rounds.

The FA Cup draw sees Town take on St Andrew's of the East Midland Counties league, while in the FA Vase, the club faces a home tie against the newly formed Hinckley AFC.

The FA Cup tie takes place on Saturday August 16, while the FA Vase will be at the Tipton Sports Academy on September 6.

Tipton manager Nick Hawkins, who himself played in the FA Cup third round proper against Cardiff City was part of the Chasetown squad that made the club so famous.

He said: "There is no better feeling than playing in the FA Cup. It is an experience I will never forget and something I really hope to emulate in the future, hopefully with Tipton Town."

"As a management team, we see no reason why we can't go on a successful cup run this season.

"There is a great buzz around Tipton Town at the moment and I think it is rubbing off on all involved. Hopefully we can get more people through the gates."

Woff will lead the GB riders

TAI WOFFINDEN spearheads the 10-man Great Britain squad for speedway's World Cup announced by new team boss Alun Rossiter.

'Rosco' must select four for the big night at King's Lynn on Saturday, July 26.

But Wolves' world champion Woffinden, already captain, is odds on.

The Chronicle, a Midland News Association Ltd publication, printed by the company at Ketley, Telford. Thursday, July 10

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